

Community Issues Report

SECOND QUARTER 2011

Meredith Corporation
WHNS FOX Carolina

07/5/11

Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina

COMMUNITY ISSUES

4/1/11 – 6/30/11

Consumer, Health & Safety

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

Crime

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

Education

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

Environment

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

Government

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

Jobs/Economy/Growth

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

Quality of Life

An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

Attachments



Consumer, Health & Safety

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

April 11, 2011

Greenville drivers will pay nearly a dime more this week for a gallon of gas, according to GasBuddy.com. The price-tracking website reported gas prices in the Greenville area jumped 9.5 cents per gallon in the past week, bringing the average cost for a gallon of gas to \$3.55. GasBuddy.com said the national average jumped 7.7 cents in the past week, starting at \$3.74 per gallon on Monday. With this week's increase, Greenville's gas prices were 16.7 cents higher than last month and 92.8 cents higher than last year, the website reported. It said the national average was 21 cents higher than last month and 87.2 cents higher than last year. AAA Carolinas said the average price for a gallon of gas was \$3.58 in South Carolina, \$3.70 in North Carolina and \$3.64 in Georgia.

April 25, 2011

The average cost for a gallon of gas fell over the past week, but not by much, according to GasBuddy.com. The price-tracking website reported the price for a gallon of gas averaged \$3.59 in the Greenville area -- down 0.8 cents from last week. GasBuddy.com said the national average increased 2.8 cents last week, to \$3.83 per gallon. With last week's change, gas prices in the Greenville area are 23.8 cents higher than last month and 98 cents higher than last year, GasBuddy.com said. The website said that nationally prices were 28.1 cents higher than last month and 97.9 cents higher than last year. AAA Carolinas reported the average price for a gallon of gas was at \$3.63 in South Carolina, \$3.75 in North Carolina and \$3.73 in Georgia.

April 25, 2011

Carowinds has set a world record for the most people dyeing eggs. Guinness World Records said in a news release on its website that 317 people dipped and dyed eggs Saturday at the amusement park that straddles the North Carolina-South Carolina state line near Charlotte. Guinness said the category is a new one, but it had set guidelines that required each participant to have at least one hard-boiled egg, a spoon and enough dye to submerge the egg. Guinness also had set a minimum of 250 people to consider the park's Easter Egg-stravaganza for the record. All eggs were colored and shown to a Guinness official for approval.

April 26, 2011

Forget Atkins, South Beach and Weight Watchers. If you want to lose weight, just follow my patented technique: I call it the cheapskate diet. Avoid all of the food and beverage companies that are raising prices and you'll be shedding pounds in no time. Of course, you may not be eating or drinking much of anything. But that's another story. McDonald's, Hershey and Coca-Cola all announced new price hikes or reiterated previous increases in their latest quarterly earnings reports over the past few days. The reason is obvious. Commodities are running amok. It's costing restaurants and food makers a lot more money to produce or buy food as the price of cattle, wheat, sugar, corn and just about every other agricultural commodity has surged in the past year. And even though the Federal Reserve may think that higher commodity costs are "transitory" -- which is the econobabble way of saying "Don't worry about it!" -- companies aren't so sure. That could be bad news for consumers, who are already coping with soaring gasoline prices. Along those lines, airlines are also boosting prices to deal with surging energy costs. Delta, which reported a quarterly loss Tuesday, was still able to post an increase in sales thanks to "domestic fare increases and international fare surcharges as a means of passing through fuel costs to its customers." That pleased investors. Shares of Delta skyrocketed 8%. Shares of rival US Airways rose 5% after the airline also reported higher revenue (despite losing money) thanks to "a series of fare increases." But higher prices may not help the Cokes, Mickey D's and Delta of the world that much longer. If consumers get scared off by rising prices, the fact that profit margins may remain stable may be small consolation to investors if demand starts to wane. "Overall prices are going up faster than income growth. For a period of time, consumers can absorb

that through lower savings or taking on debt," said Keith Hembre, chief economist with First American Funds in Minneapolis. "But higher prices should start leading to slower growth rates for the economy." It's no wonder then that some of these companies also seem to be going out of their way to reassure shareholders and consumers that prices are not heading dramatically higher. Companies realize they are in a bind. "It's impossible for corporations to pass on all their input costs to consumers," said John Norris, managing director with Oakworth Capital Bank in Birmingham, Ala. "If they could, nobody would ever go out of business. In its conference call last week, McDonald's CFO Peter Bensen told analysts that the fast food chain hopes "to offset some but not necessarily all of the inflationary pressures with price increases." He added that the company is choosing "to take smaller increases over the course of the year to balance the impact on the consumer and our traffic." Coca-Cola was more cryptic. In a press release that made me wonder if Ben Bernanke (or worse, noted master of obfuscation Alan Greenspan) was the new Coke CEO, the soft drink giant said that "we expect to see further price realization over the course of the year to help offset a rising cost environment." Translation. High-fructose corn syrup costs more so that means your bottle of Sprite will too. Still, Norris said that higher prices for food and gas probably "won't stop the economy dead in its tracks." But he thinks higher commodity prices could do damage to higher-end retailers and companies that don't sell basic, day-to-day items you can't live without. "Household names that provide the stuff you need to have are probably going to be okay," he said. "They have more pricing power than a company like Coach or Tiffany that sells luxury items, which are more cyclical." However, consumers and investors probably have to get used to rising prices. Experts said that the weakening dollar is partly to blame for high fuel and food costs -- especially for products that come from overseas. And the dollar may fall further before finally bouncing back. "A weakening dollar is not going to improve matters much. It exacerbates inflation problems," said Michael Woolfolk, senior currency strategist at Bank of New York Mellon. "We are an economy that is highly dependent on imports, so without a doubt the weak dollar will push prices higher." Of course, this is precisely what the Fed wants. Bernanke & Co. are making the calculated gamble that cheap money will keep the economy and financial system afloat. It has worked so far but the byproduct has been an anemic dollar and higher commodity prices. And if the Fed keeps interest rates low much longer and continues to buy bonds, that could mean food and energy prices will climb even higher. "The increase in commodity prices is starting to look more pervasive. This is only transitory if the Fed doesn't keep feeding the fire," Hembre said. The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of Paul R. La Monica. Other than Time Warner, the parent of CNNMoney, and Abbott Laboratories, La Monica does not own positions in any individual stocks.

April 28, 2011

The Greenville Road Warriors were defeated by the Wheeling Nailers, 4-3, in overtime on Wednesday night in Game 7 of their Eastern Conference semifinal. The loss ended the Road Warriors inaugural season. Wheeling grabbed a 1-0 lead on its only power play goal of the series when Joey Haddad chopped home a rebound in the first period. Greenville battled back to tie the score at 1 with Marc-Olivier Vallerand's fifth of the playoffs. The third was a defensive struggle as Wheeling tried to hang on to its one-goal lead. The Nailers were able to limit the Road Warriors to just four shots in the frame, but it was the last one that breathed life into the BI-LO Center. Kris Vernarsky was hit with a high-sticking minor with 2:15 remaining in regulation and sent the Road Warriors to their third power play of the night. With Riopel pulled for the extra attacker and time winding down, Connolly blazed a slap shot past Delmas with 23 seconds to play and sent the game to extra hockey. Greenville managed seven shots in the overtime session but could not feed one past Delmas. Wheeling turned a Road Warriors turnover into a 2-on-1 break and Kushneriuk finished off the pass from Haddad for the winner. The Road Warriors said they wish to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all of the fans who made their inaugural season in Greenville a success.

April 29, 2011

The final launch of the space shuttle Endeavour was delayed Friday, temporarily putting off what promised to be an emotional moment for mission's commander. Liftoff -- originally scheduled for 3:47 p.m. ET -- was delayed by at least 72 hours due to concerns with the shuttle's heating system. As part of NASA's examination of the problem, the shuttle's external fuel tank will be drained of its oxygen and hydrogen propellants. "The engineering team did not understand how this problem occurred and did not feel comfortable proceeding with a launch attempt," NASA spokesman George Diller said. Cmdr. Mark Kelly's wife, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, traveled to Florida to watch the shuttle's ascent. President Barack Obama and the first family were also scheduled to be in attendance. Three months ago, Giffords was nearly killed when a would-be assassin shot her in the head during a meeting with constituents in Tucson, Arizona. It was not immediately clear if Gifford's doctors -- who are overseeing her lengthy rehabilitation -- will allow her to remain in Florida for the duration of the delay. Kelly was tapped to lead a crew that includes pilot Gregory Johnson; mission specialists Michael Fincke, Greg Chamitoff and Andrew Feustel; and European Space Agency astronaut Roberto Vittori. Liftoff. Endeavour has logged more than 103 million miles in space, blasting off 24 times, but its 25th flight will be its last. As NASA's shuttle program winds down with the last launch scheduled this summer, many in the astronaut corps are wrestling with what to do next. For the foreseeable future, Russian rockets will be the only way for U.S. astronauts to get to space. Fincke spent a total of a year in space on the international space station, getting there and back twice on Russian rockets. But Friday's delayed flight will be his first on the shuttle. "I think all of us,

with all the changes that are going on, with our country's space program and NASA, all of us professional astronauts are looking into our hearts to see what we're going to do next," Fincke said. Four spacewalks are planned for the mission. The space walkers will retrieve experiments, install new ones, refill tanks and lubricate parts at the International Space Station. In its cargo bay, Endeavour will carry the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer. At \$1.5 billion, it is the most expensive piece of equipment a space shuttle has ever carried. The spectrometer is designed to capture space particles like anti-matter and dark matter that scientists know very little about but believe exist in the universe. The spectrometer will be mounted outside the International Space Station. If it's successful, it could lead to a better understanding of how our universe began and evolved. A few months ago, before his wife was shot, Kelly talked about his upcoming mission. "Flying in space is a very difficult thing to give up," Kelly said. "I remember after my last flight thinking 'Well, maybe this is the last time I'm gonna do this.' And, you know, you go a couple of months out and you're like, 'Oh, I really hope this is not the end of my flying career.'" Kelly said that when STS 134, the Endeavour's last flight, is over, "I'll be thinking the same thing, I can't really give this up. I've got to figure out a way to get back into space." CNN's John Zarrella and Eric Fiegel contributed to this report.

May 2, 2011

The cost for a gallon of gas jumped 9.4 cents in the past week for Greenville drivers, according to GasBuddy.com. The price-tracking website reported a gallon of gas in Greenville costs \$3.68 on average, which is still much lower than the national average of \$3.92 a gallon -- up 7.1 cents in the past week. GasBuddy.com said Greenville's gas price is 22.2 cents higher than last month and \$1.01 higher than last year. The national average is 29.2 cents higher than last month and \$1.01 higher than last year, the website reported. AAA Carolinas reported the average cost for a gallon of gas is \$3.71 in South Carolina, \$3.83 in North Carolina and \$3.84 in Georgia.

May 2, 2011

Botanical gardens, arboretums and other public green spaces can be a great place to learn about new plants and get landscaping ideas for your landscape. National Public Gardens Day is a great opportunity to visit your favorite -- or discover a new one. National Public Gardens Day, which is the Friday before Mother's Day, is a day of awareness where communities across North America are invited to visit and learn about the important role that public gardens play in our lives. May 6, this year's National Public Gardens Day, is an ideal time to get out and enjoy the beautiful display at your local botanical garden or arboretum and learn about its impact on your community. For example, many gardens conduct research and aid in the discovery of new plant species or creation of new plant varieties. Your local garden may also play a valuable role in helping to protect endangered plants. Or it may offer outreach programs that allow you to take classes to learn more about gardening, landscaping, or other topics. This year, the American Public Gardens Association and the Rainbird Corporation are helping make the day special by organizing events and activities at more than 500 gardens in the United States and Canada. Find a public garden near you! Go to bhg.com/gardening. Download a voucher for free admission to a participating garden near you at npga.bhg.com.

May 3, 2011

A Florida tomato grower is voluntarily recalling its grape tomatoes after a sample tested positive for salmonella. Six L's Packing Company Inc. said in a statement Monday that no illnesses had been reported in connection to the recall as of April 29. The Immokalee, Fla.-based company says the recalled product was packed on April 11 under the Cherry Berry lot code DW-H in clam shells or 20-pound cardboard containers. The tomatoes were distributed to California, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia, as well as Canada. The tomatoes also were used in deli salads made by Tracy-based Taylor Farms Pacific Inc. The salads were sold in Albertsons, Raley's, Safeway, Savemart, Sam's Club and Walmart stores across the West and some Midwestern states.

May 4, 2011

An airplane made an emergency landing at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport on Wednesday morning. An airport spokeswoman said Air Tran flight 311 was headed from Charlotte, N.C., to Atlanta when the No. 1 engine went out about 7:30 a.m. She said that the plane was diverted to GSP and landed safely about 10 minutes later. The airport said the airplane was parked at gate A3 and that an airplane is being flown in from Atlanta to move the passengers to their original destination. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

May 4, 2011

South Carolina's chief justice has ordered a stop to all pending foreclosures until the parties involved can complete an intervention process. Chief Justice Jean Toal wrote in the order published Tuesday that all pending foreclosures are on hold while homeowners try to mitigate their losses and perhaps modify their loans. This is the second time in as many years that Toal has halted foreclosures. In 2009, she ordered South Carolina judges to stop finalizing foreclosure sales on thousands of properties guaranteed by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae or any other mortgage company that had signed on to a federal assistance

program, saying she wanted to give homeowners time to take advantage of the help. Two weeks later, Toal replaced the injunction with procedures to ensure foreclosures were handled uniformly.

May 9, 2011

Gas prices in the Greenville area fell 2.1 cents in the past week, according to GasBuddy.com. The price-tracking website said Greenville drivers were paying \$3.68 on average for a gallon of gas. That was below the national average of \$3.93 per gallon, which was 0.8 cents lower than last week. GasBuddy.com said Greenville-area gas prices were 13.7 cents higher than last month and 95.9 cents higher than last year. AAA Carolinas reported the average cost for a gallon of gas was at \$3.73 in South Carolina, \$3.86 in North Carolina and \$3.87 in Georgia. Analysts said a drop of 50 cents is forecast in June. They said the decline will be gradual but steady, because the cost of oil has begun to fall.

May 13, 2011

Gas prices in the Greenville area fell over the past week, but only slightly, GasBuddy.com reported Monday. The price-tracking website reported the average cost for a gallon of gas for Greenville-area drivers was at \$3.68 -- down 0.3 cents from last week. Greenville's average prices was still lower than the national average of \$3.93 per gallon, the website said. GasBuddy.com said Greenville's prices were 8.3 cents higher than last month and \$1.03 higher than last year. It said the national average was 12.9 cents higher than last month and \$1.05 higher than last year. AAA Carolinas said the average cost for a gallon of gas was at \$3.72 in South Carolina, \$3.85 in North Carolina and \$3.92 in Georgia.

May 22, 2011

Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said his office was investigating the fiery crash of a tractor-trailer on Interstate 85 Sunday that killed two people. Fowler said the collision occurred at about 2:35 a.m. in the northbound lane of the State Highway 150 overpass at the 92.5 mile marker near Gaffney. The coroner said the truck struck a bridge abutment and burst into flames on impact. "The driver was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected coming to rest on the right shoulder of the roadway. Once the massive fire was brought under control, a second victim was discovered in the sleeper section of the truck. Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene. I am currently working to identify both and make notification to next of kin. Their names are being withheld until this is done," Fowler said. The impact from the collision severely damaged at least one of the three support columns, which delayed the recovery effort until South Carolina Department of Transportation engineers could determine it was safe, according to Fowler. Fowler, along with the South Carolina Highway Patrol and SCDOT officials, were continuing to investigate the crash. SCDOT engineers said they were attempting to reopen I-85 northbound as soon as possible, but a detour was set up. Officials said the detour is estimated to be in place for at least 24 hours.

May 23, 2011

The average price for a gallon of gas in the Greenville area fell 14.5 cents during the past week, GasBuddy.com reported Monday. The price-tracking website reported that Greenville-area drivers will pay \$3.54 per gallon on average. The national average was at \$3.83 per gallon, according to the website. GasBuddy.com said prices in the Greenville area were 4.6 cents lower than a month ago, but 96.7 cents higher than last year. The national average was 0.1 cents higher than last month and \$1.04 higher than last year. AAA Carolinas reported the average price for a gallon of gas was \$3.61 in South Carolina, \$3.76 in North Carolina and \$3.80 in Georgia.

May 24, 2011

A cold winter, natural disasters abroad and the rising price of fuel have combined to send shrimp prices higher in South Carolina. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported Tuesday that shrimp is now selling for about \$15 a pound in some places. Cold weather last winter has delayed the local harvest and it will be next month before local shrimp is available. There's a national shortage because of the Japanese tsunami and flooding in Thailand where much of the shrimp imported to the United States is raised. About 80 percent of the shrimp consumed in the nation is imported. The shrimp price is also affected by gasoline nearing \$4 a gallon, making it more expensive to transport shrimp to market.

May 24, 2011

Interstate 85 is back open after being shut down for more than 48 hours after a fiery tractor-trailer crash Sunday that killed two people. Northbound lanes between exits 92 and 96 opened shortly after 6:30 a.m. Tuesday after crews removed a portion of the bridge at exit 92 that was damaged in the crash. Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said the collision occurred at about 2:35 a.m. in the northbound lane of the State Highway 150 overpass at the 92.5 mile marker near Gaffney. The coroner said the truck struck a bridge abutment and burst into flames on impact. "The driver was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected coming to rest on the right shoulder of the roadway. Once the massive fire was brought under control, a second victim was discovered

in the sleeper section of the truck. Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene. I am currently working to identify both and make notification to next of kin. Their names are being withheld until this is done," Fowler said. The impact from the collision severely damaged at least one of the three support columns, which delayed the recovery effort until South Carolina Department of Transportation engineers could determine it was safe, according to Fowler. Fowler, along with the South Carolina Highway Patrol and SCDOT officials, were continuing to investigate the crash. Fowler identified the driver of the truck as 54-year-old Steven Woods Sr, of Athens, Ga. He identified the co-driver of the truck as 42-year-old Gregory Lockhard, of Buford, Ga. The coroner said it appears that Woods fell asleep at the wheel, causing the crash.

May 24, 2011

Coastal residents who depend on a South Carolina program for their hurricane insurance will be paying about 10 percent more this year. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported the South Carolina Wind and Hail Underwriting Association is raising rates an average of 9.8 percent this year. The costs are for those who cannot get private insurance. Most barrier island residential property is insured through the program. The state program insures more than \$17 billion in property along the coast. Association executive director Smitty Harrison said the group had asked the state Insurance Department for a 19 percent increase. The new rates apply to policies that are renewed on Sept. 1.

May 31, 2011

Radiation from cell phones can possibly cause cancer, according to the World Health Organization. The agency now lists mobile phone use in the same "carcinogenic hazard" category as lead, engine exhaust and chloroform. Before its announcement Tuesday, WHO had assured consumers that no adverse health effects had been established. A team of 31 scientists from 14 countries, including the United States, made the decision after reviewing peer-reviewed studies on cell phone safety. The team found enough evidence to categorize personal exposure as "possibly carcinogenic to humans." What that means is that right now there haven't been enough long-term studies conducted to make a clear conclusion if radiation from cell phones are safe, but there is enough data showing a possible connection that consumers should be alerted. "The biggest problem we have is that we know most environmental factors take several decades of exposure before we really see the consequences," said Dr. Keith Black, chairman of neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. The type of radiation coming out of a cell phone is called non-ionizing. It is not like an X-ray, but more like a very low-powered microwave oven. "What microwave radiation does in most simplistic terms is similar to what happens to food in microwaves, essentially cooking the brain. So in addition to leading to a development of cancer and tumors, there could be a whole host of other effects like cognitive memory function, since the memory temporal lobes are where we hold our cell phones." The voices urging caution to consumers have gotten louder in recent years. The European Environmental Agency has pushed for more studies, saying cell phones could be as big a public health risk as smoking, asbestos and leaded gasoline. The head of a prominent cancer-research institute at the University of Pittsburgh sent a memo to all employees urging them to limit cell phone use because of a possible risk of cancer. "When you look at cancer development -- particularly brain cancer -- it takes a long time to develop. I think it is a good idea to give the public some sort of warning that long-term exposure to radiation from your cell phone could possibly cause cancer," said Dr. Henry Lai, research professor in bioengineering at University of Washington who has studied radiation for over 30 years. Results from the largest international study on cell phones and cancer was released in 2010. It showed participants in the study who used a cell phones for 10 years or more had doubled the rate of brain glioma, a type of tumor. To date, there have been no long-term studies on the effects of cell phone usage among children. "Childrens' skulls and scalps are thinner. So the radiation can penetrate deeper into the brain of children and young adults. Their cells are dividing faster rate, so the impact of radiation can be much larger." said Black of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Manufacturers of many popular cell phones already warn consumers to keep their device away from their body. The Apple iPhone 4 safety manual says for users' radiation exposure to not exceed FCC guidelines, "When using iPhone near your body for voice calls or for wireless data transmission over a cellular network, keep iPhone at least 15 mm (5/8 inch) away from the body." Blackberry Bold advises users to, "keep the BlackBerry device at least 0.98 in. (25 mm) from your body when the BlackBerry device is transmitting."

May 31, 2011

The search continues Tuesday for a teen who went missing while swimming at Darwin Wright Park in Anderson on Monday. Divers are searching the water in the area known as Anderson Beach at Lake Hartwell. Anderson police said they got a call at 2:50 p.m. from Lake Hartwell, where a teen and several other people were swimming. Witnesses said the teen was swimming from the beach to a bridge area and was on a piece of Styrofoam when he fell off. Police said that 18-year-old Rishun Sullivan, of Greenville, called for help and then disappeared underwater. Police said the water in the area where Sullivan disappeared is about 30 feet deep. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for more on this developing story.

June 2, 2011

The state's Medicaid program said it overpaid one of its contractors by more than \$10 million. State Department of Health and Human Services director Tony Keck said Thursday that he's trying to negotiate a repayment from Community Health Solutions of St. Petersburg, Fla. Keck said the overpayment wasn't the company's fault. He said it was created as the agency used flawed data and assumptions to calculate savings for the state's Medicaid program. Community Health Solutions chief executive Dale Schmidt said it is contesting the repayment because the agency's reasoning is incorrect. The questioned payments were for work the company performed between 2006 and 2009. It is the biggest contractor, handling about 125,000 of the state's patients in Medicaid managed care programs.

June 13, 2011

It started with an email correspondence between a Fox Carolina viewer and a so called local landlord, living in England. That e-mail seemed suspicious, and our investigation proved it. Kristi Hartmann and her family moved into a four bedroom home in Simpsonville about three months ago. But ever since they moved in, she said people have been driving by and scoping out her house. "Random people pull up, in the driveway or just stop on the cul-de-sac or check the mailbox, or even come to the door and ask if anyone is living here," said Hartmann. Kristi, her husband and their three small children live in the house, and they plan on living here for the next eighteen months. But what Kristi learned is that her house is listed "for rent" online, for hundreds less than what they are paying for it. And it's listed by the so called "landlord" who lives in London, England. Hartmann said, "you really feel sorry for everyone showing up thinking they are getting a great deal, and it breaks my heart having to tell them." Nick Sabatine is the CEO of the Greenville Greater Association of Realtors. He said this is a true scam. Sabatine said, "we'll have people calling and saying they had someone knock on their door, with a lease in hand ready to rent my house." The Fox Carolina viewer who contacted us said the scammer needed them to send \$350 via Western Union, to get the keys to look inside the home. Then, they sent an email that the home was available for rent, and for the next three years. Sabatine said these are all the ingredients of a scam. "These scammers are usually out of the country, in England or Africa," said Sabatine. Sabatine said this is a nationwide dilemma. Scammers scrape house listings off web sites, and create cheaper versions on other web sites. "If scammers can get our credit card numbers and social security numbers, they can certainly copy a house listing, and make it their own," said Sabatine. While the Hartmanns continue to deal with potential renters trying to live in their home, they said enough is enough. "We would just like our privacy back," said Hartmann. We tried to contact the number associated with the so-called scammer in London, but the recording said the number was incorrect. We also learned the actual landlord of the Simpsonville home lives in Florida, and is aware of this scam. She said she has tried to report it before

June 14, 2011

Officials say a South Carolina nuclear plant that recently switched from analog to digital controls had problems while powering up after a scheduled outage. Sandra McGee of Duke [Energy](#) said Monday that operators noticed a problem Friday with an instrument that reads power levels on one of the units at the Oconee Nuclear Station. McGee says operators swapped out wires in the system that monitors reactor [power](#) and temperature and fixed the problem. Oconee is the first nuclear plant in the country to switch from analog to digital controls. The reactor was powering up after being offline since early April while the digital controls were installed and other maintenance was performed. McGee says Oconee has been operating at 100 percent power since it was brought back online Friday

June 16, 2011

Children on public insurance are being denied treatment by doctors at much higher rates than those with private coverage, according to an undercover study that had researchers pose as parents of sick kids seeking an appointment with a specialist. Snubbed even by specialists whose offices supposedly accept public insurance patients, these kids also had to wait much longer to see a doctor. Low Medicaid reimbursements are the likely reason, the study authors said. The study was done in Cook County, Ill., the nation's second-most populous county which includes Chicago, but the researchers and others say the results likely reflect practices around the country. "People should be very concerned," said Dr. Karin Rhodes, the lead author and an emergency medicine specialist at the University of Pennsylvania. The study results suggest many of the 40 million publicly insured U.S. children are not getting recommended timely treatment for dangerous conditions including asthma, diabetes and depression, she said. "I work in an emergency room ... where you see the long-term consequences of people who did not get the care they needed," Rhodes said. The study appears in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. The study is "simple and elegant" and bolsters previous research while presenting a more accurate real-world picture of disparities facing public aid patients, said Dr. Steve Wegner, former head of the American Academy of Pediatrics' child health financing committee. To test whether type of insurance influences doctors' willingness to schedule appointments, the researchers posed as parents of fictitious sick children referred to specialists by primary-care doctors or emergency room physicians. Seven scenarios were created, including a 9-month-old with a severe skin rash, a 7-year-old with diabetes, a 12-year-old with a suspected broken arm and a 13-year-old with symptoms of severe depression. The researchers phoned 273 specialty clinics twice, a month apart, seeking an appointment with doctors including dermatologists, allergists, psychiatrists and bone specialists. In one call, the children were said to have private insurance; in the other, they were insured through Illinois' Medicaid program. Overall, specialists refused to grant appointments for 66 percent of the Medicaid children, versus only 11 percent of privately insured youngsters. Among 89 clinics that accepted both insurance types, Medicaid children had to wait an average of 42 days for an appointment, versus 20 days for private coverage. In about half the calls, clinics asked about insurance before telling callers whether an appointment was available. In other cases, callers volunteered their insurance information - and were often told that Medicaid was the reason

the appointment request was denied, the researchers said. Orthopedic (bone) doctors were among specialists most likely to deny appointments for public kids; psychiatrists were among the least likely. Rhodes said an analysis of the reasons offices gave has not been completed. In about 20 percent of the denials, callers were told they could seek treatment at the county public hospital or at an emergency room. Rhodes said information is not available on how many of the doctors involved accept Medicaid patients, but that most specialists are affiliated with hospitals, which generally require them to enroll in Medicaid. All appointments made were canceled at the end of the call. Many specialists told about the study afterward said they wanted to see any kids "who need to see me" but that they worked within health systems or hospitals that for financial reasons discouraged them from treating too many patients on public aid, Rhodes said. In Illinois, Medicaid pays doctors about \$100 for office visits like those sought in the study, versus an average of \$160 from private insurers, the researchers said. Other factors against Medicaid patients include "delays in payment and hassles of payment procedures," the researchers said. Wegner, a Medicaid consultant and chairman of Community Care of North Carolina, a managed care group that includes most primary care doctors in his state, said accountable care organizations to be set up starting next year would help address the disparities. The groups were part of President Barack Obama's health care law. These networks of hospitals, doctors and other health care providers would include organizations focused on the pediatric Medicaid population, he said. The idea is for providers to work together to streamline care, prevent medical errors, and focus on keeping patients healthier and out of the emergency room. In a study published last month in *Pediatrics*, the same researchers used similar undercover methods to examine access to emergency dental care for children on Medicaid in Cook County - and found similar disparities. The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services paid for both studies as part of a 2005 consent decree stemming from a class-action lawsuit alleging Medicaid children in Cook County weren't getting equal access to primary care. Department spokesman Mike Claffey said both studies "provide data that highlights an issue that has been and continues to be an area of focus" for his agency and Medicaid programs in all states

June 17, 2011

The City of Asheville has decided to change plans for their annual Fourth of July holiday fireworks show. Recently, North Carolina instituted new statewide rules after a deadly fireworks accident in 2010 left 3 people dead on Ocracoke Island. Because of the new rules Asheville was not allowed to host the popular event downtown anymore. This year the city of Asheville is moving the event to Memorial Stadium on July 3rd at 8:30 p.m. City leaders say the date change will also help them accommodate the pyrotechnic company that is producing the fireworks show.

June 24, 2011

Dieting and disordered eating that begin in adolescence often continue into young adulthood, a new study finds. Disordered eating includes unhealthy and extreme weight-control behaviors, such as fasting or skipping meals and binge eating. Researchers analyzed data from 1,030 males and 1,257 females who were followed for 10 years beginning in either early adolescence (about 13 years old) or middle adolescence (about 16 years old). About half of the teen girls and about one-quarter of the teen boys reported dieting during the previous year. Among females in both age groups, the prevalence of dieting remained constant from adolescence through young adulthood. For males, dieting remained constant in the younger age group, but increased among the older age group as they progressed to their mid 20s (rising from 22 percent to 28 percent). The prevalence of unhealthy weight-control behaviors remained constant among the younger girls during the study period. It decreased as the girls aged, but remained very high (61 percent to 54 percent). For males in both age groups, the prevalence of unhealthy weight-control behaviors remained constant, the study authors noted. Extreme weight-control behaviors increased significantly in both female age groups, from 8 percent to 20 percent in the younger group of girls and from 13 percent to 21 percent in the older group. Among the older males, extreme weight-control behaviors increased from 2 percent to 7 percent, the investigators found. The study is published in the July issue of the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. "The findings from the current study argue for early and ongoing efforts aimed at the prevention, early identification and treatment of disordered eating behaviors in young people," lead investigator Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, a professor in the division of epidemiology & community health at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, said in a journal news release. Dietitians and other health care providers should ask patients about their dieting behavior in childhood and through young adulthood, she added. "Given the growing concern about obesity, it is important to let young people know that dieting and disordered eating behaviors can be counterproductive to weight management," she said. "Young people concerned about their weight should be provided with support for healthful eating and physical activity behaviors that can be implemented on a long-term basis, and should be steered away from the use of unhealthy weight-control practices

June 27, 2011

Gas prices in the Greenville area fell 7.2 cents over the past week, according to GasBuddy.com. The price-tracking website said Monday that the average price for a gallon of gas was \$3.23 for Greenville drivers. GasBuddy.com said the national average fell 6.5 cents from last week to \$3.58 per gallon. Monday's price in Greenville was 23.6 cents lower than last month, but 76.7 cents higher than last year, the website reported. It said the national average was 21 cents lower than last month, but 84 cents higher than last year. AAA Carolinas reported the average price for a gallon of gas was at \$3.31 in South Carolina, \$3.50 in North Carolina and \$3.49 in Georgia.

June 27, 2011

Some Anderson residents were being asked to boil their [water](#) Monday after a pipeline ruptured. According to the Broadway Water District, the pipeline along Highway 252 broke, causing a widespread loss of pressure. Customers were asked to vigorously boil all water for at least a minute before using it for cooking, [drinking](#) or consumption. There was no immediate word how long the advisory will be in effect.

June 28, 2011

Need a parking space? There's an app for that -- at least if you're in Asheville. On Monday, the city began letting the public test out a new smart [phone](#) app called Parker. The app lets drivers know where there are available spaces using sensors on parking meters. The sensors can sense when a space is taken. The test period will run through September. Parker is available for iPhones and Android devices

June 30, 2011

The holiday weekend is about to get into full swing and highway patrol wants you to play it [safe](#). Highway patrol tells us they are planning to have checkpoints throughout the weekend. They will be checking for seat belts, speed, DUI and pedestrian [safety](#). Lance Corporal Bill Rhyne says with the Fourth of July on Monday, they're expecting parties to kick off Friday which will probably lead more people to drink alcohol. "It's going to be hot and we know that. Alcohol will have a different affect. If you do plan on drinking, you should take, precautions before they do so," said Rhyne. Rhyne says it's not just about drivers, but pedestrians need to be careful too by making sure they are always facing traffic. He says never walk with traffic to your back. Highway patrol says if you see someone who may be drunk you can call *47 on your mobile phone to report it to them.

June 30, 2011

Americans are spending more this year for the traditional July 4th cookout. Data from the National Retail Federation and Big Research show that the average U.S. adult will spend a little over \$61 dollars, up 12 percent over last year. The survey shows that the item with the biggest expected spending increase is charcoal.

Attachments



Crime

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
----------------------------	--------	-----------------------

Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

April 6, 2011

An Upstate principal placed on administrative leave earlier this year was arrested Wednesday. State Law Enforcement Division agents arrested Liberty High School Principal Randy Gilstrap Sr. after executing a search warrant at his home. In a statement from the School District of Pickens County, the district said it had been notified by SLED that Gilstrap had been placed under arrest. Gilstrap was charged with embezzlement of public funds, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and financial transaction card fraud. According to the arrest warrants, Gilstrap diverted money meant for the school and the school district between November 2008 and February. Gilstrap and Buea DeNard, the school's financial secretary, were both placed on leave in February while the financial records of the school were being reviewed. Gilstrap has worked for the school district since December 1980.

April 7, 2011

Five people in Waterloo were arrested Wednesday after deputies found a drug lab inside a home, the Laurens County Sheriff's Office said. Deputies said they were called to 669 Smith Village Road in reference to someone trespassing at the home. They said when they went inside the home they found a bottle with a white substance inside and a hose attached to the top of it. They said other items commonly used to make methamphetamine were also found near it. Narcotics investigators were then called to the scene and confirmed that the items were part of a drug lab, deputies said. Roger Simmons, 36; Roy Smith, 45; Alvin Brewer, 39; Holly Angermeier, 40; and Wanda Yates, 50, were each charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and unlawful disposal of methamphetamine waste.

April 7, 2011

A day after Liberty High School Principal Randy Gilstrap Sr. was arrested and charged with embezzlement, the school's bookkeeper faced similar charges. Beua Denard was arrested Thursday and charged with embezzlement of public funds and breach of trust with fraudulent intent, according to warrants. The warrants said that Denard manipulated deposits and diverted less than \$10,000 meant for the school and the Pickens County School District over the past two years. Gilstrap was arrested Wednesday and charged with embezzlement of public funds, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and financial transaction card fraud. According to the arrest warrants, Gilstrap diverted money meant for the school and the school district between November 2008 and February. Gilstrap and Denard were both placed on leave in February while the financial records of the school were being reviewed.

April 25, 2011

The Anderson County sheriff said four of his patrol cars have been broken into during the past week. Sheriff John Skipper said the thieves took weapons, bullet-proof vests, uniforms and jackets. Skipper said three of the four cars broken into were unmarked vehicles. They were all parked at deputies' homes, and the sheriff doesn't know if the thefts were random or the patrol cars were targeted. "I think breaking into anyone's car is a serious crime, obviously," Skipper said. "When it comes to a person intending to break into a marked unit, it takes a little gumption for a person to do that." A Department of Natural Resources officer said someone broke into his locked patrol car at an Anderson County boat ramp earlier this month and took a shotgun, an agency jacket and a digital camera and also tried to steal his blue lights. Skipper said other law enforcement agencies across the Southeast have been targets of thefts in the past few months. Skipper said he does not believe someone stole the items to impersonate a deputy, but he cannot rule it out. Anyone with information about the thefts was asked to call Anderson County Crime Stoppers at 231-STOP.

April 26, 2011

Four men fired shots in a crowded Anderson park Saturday afternoon, Anderson police said. The shooting happened at D.B. Walker Park on Quarry Street at 2:20 p.m. Witnesses said four men in a black car, possibly a Honda Civic, fired several shots while there was a family gathering going on, police said. Police said they questioned three people whose clothing matched the description witnesses provided of the shooters. Two of them were released because police could not positively identify them as the gunmen, police said. The third person was arrested because of a warrant on an unrelated charge, police said. Police said they are using cameras in the park to develop leads in the case.

April 26, 2011

Liberty High School Principal Randy Gilstrap and bookkeeper Beua Denard will be suspended without pay as of Friday, according to the School District of Pickens County. The pair were arrested earlier this month at the conclusion of a state investigation into the school's finances. According to arrest warrants, Denard manipulated deposits and diverted less than \$10,000 meant for the school and the Pickens County School District over the past two years. Warrants said that Gilstrap diverted money meant for the school and the school district between November 2008 and February. Denard was charged with embezzlement of public funds and breach of trust with fraudulent intent. Gilstrap was charged with embezzlement of public funds, breach of trust with fraudulent intent and financial transaction card fraud. Gilstrap and Denard were both placed on paid leave in February while the financial records of the school were being reviewed.

April 27, 2011

Resident in one Upstate neighborhood said they became the victims of a slasher. Fifteen residents reported having the tires on their cars and trucks punctured in one night. The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department reported that someone took an ice pick or a sharp metal object and slashed more than three dozen tires. Deputies said it happened on and near homes along Barnwell Road Tuesday morning. "This is something we don't see very often, this scale of damage and vandalism," Spartanburg County Sheriff's Department Spokesman Tony Ivey said. Ivey said the person or people responsible will face charges of malicious damage of property and the severity will increase as they get the total dollar amount of damage. If you have any information that can lead to an arrest, call Crime Stopper at 1-888-CRIME-SC.

April 27, 2011

An Anderson County man was found guilty of murder Wednesday in connection with the death of his ex-wife. Anderson County Sheriff John Skipper said in 2009 that family members of 31-year-old Amerise Barbre called the Sheriff's Office and reported her missing. Skipper said investigators then talked to Barbre's ex-husband, 34-year-old John Lambert IV, who said he had not seen her since the middle of December. Lambert told investigators that he believed Barbre had "run off" with someone else. Investigators obtained a search warrant to search the home at 118 Faye Drive for digging tools, Skipper said. He said after the search of the home, information that Lambert provided investigators led them to believe she may be buried behind the

home. Skipper said Barbre's body was found in an 18-inch-deep grave with cinder blocks stacked on top of it. On Wednesday, a jury took less than a half hour to find Lambert guilty of murder. He was sentenced to 36 years in prison.

May 9, 2011

Spartanburg County deputies said they arrested a one person and were looking for another in connection with a tire-slashing spree in the county last month. Deputies said that on April 26 someone slashed 37 tires at homes on Archer Road, Neville Street, Jasmine Street and Barnwell Road. Investigators said they determined that 17-year-old Trevon Clark and 20-year-old Tyler Biggerstaff were responsible for the damaged tires. They said Clark turned himself in to authorities on Friday, but Biggerstaff has yet to be located. Both Clark and Biggerstaff were charged with 15 counts of malicious damage to personal property less than \$2,000. Clark was released from jail on \$15,000 bond. Anyone with information on Biggerstaff's whereabouts was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 888-CRIME-SC.

May 14, 2011

A Campobello couple was arrested Thursday evening, charged with cruelty to children. Spartanburg County deputies said a worker from the Department of Social Services went to 2155 Motlow Creek Road to do a check of the house after Crystal Wooten, who is pregnant, tested positive for drugs during a visit to Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. They said the worker called deputies after seeing the conditions at the home. According to an incident report, a deputy could smell urine coming from the home as he walked inside. The report said that the carpet was stained with dried puddles of urine and either ground in dirt or feces. The report said the bedrooms were full of things, making it difficult to get inside. Dirty dishes covered the counters and dirty laundry was piled on top of the washer and dryer and onto the floor, the incident report said. Wooten and her husband, Donnie Wooten Jr., were arrested and released from jail on \$1,092 bond. The couple's two children, 3 and 5 years old, were placed in protective custody.

May 31, 2011

Greenville police said they were investigating a bank robbery Tuesday morning. The robbery happened about 10:30 a.m. at the First Citizens Bank at 928 N. Pleasantburg Drive. Police said they have arrested someone in connection with the robbery. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

June 2, 2011

Police said Thursday they charged two people in connection with the disappearance of a Travelers Rest woman. Travelers Rest Police Chief Lance Crowe said 25-year-old Stephanie Bailey and 27-year-old Antwon Quarles Jr. were charged with murder in connection with the disappearance of 40-year-old Tammy Lewis. Lewis was last seen on March 17. After she went missing, Lewis' family told FOX Carolina that it was not unusual for Lewis to go missing for a couple of days at a time, but this amount of time was unusual. Police said at that time that they completed a search of Lewis' home, but did not release the details of the search. Lewis' sister, Tiona Perry, said Lewis' home was broken into three days before she went missing. She said Lewis also reported her car had been stolen before her disappearance. Perry said she found a scene of disarray inside her sister's home when she went to check on her. She said Lewis' power had been cut and there was a strong smell of bleach inside, to which Lewis is allergic. Something terrible had happened," Perry said. "I felt it all along in my heart, that my other half was gone. She did not walk out of that house on her own accord." Crowe said detectives received information Wednesday that led them to a location on Clement Road in Greer as a possible location of Lewis' body. He said that unidentified human remains were found at that location Thursday. Bailey was being held at the Greenville County Detention Center without bond. Quarles was being held in federal custody on an unrelated charge, Crowe said. He said the warrant charging Quarles with murder will not be served until the federal issue is resolved. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

June 2, 2011

The global war on drugs has failed, a high-level commission comprised of former presidents, public intellectuals and other leaders studying drug policies concluded in a report released Thursday. International efforts to crack down on drug producers and consumers and to try to reduce demand have had "devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world," the report from the Global Commission on Drug Policy said. The commission, which includes former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson and Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa, challenges the conventional wisdom about drug markets and drug use. Among the group's recommendations: -- End of criminalization and stigmatization of people who use drugs but do not harm others -- Encourage governments to experiment with drug legalization, especially marijuana -- Offer more harm reduction measures, such as access to syringes -- Ditch "just say no" and "zero tolerance" policies for youth in favor of other educational efforts. The theory that increasing law enforcement action would

lead to a shrinking drug market has not worked, the report says. To the contrary, illegal drug markets and the organized criminal organizations that traffic them have grown, the group found. The report comes as countries such as Mexico suffer from widespread drug-related violence. More than 40,000 people have been killed in Mexico in the past four years as rival cartels battle each other over lucrative smuggling corridors and as the army fights the cartels. The commission's findings add more high-profile voices to a growing movement calling for a radical approach to drugs. Other leaders, such as former Mexican President Vicente Fox, have called for drug legalization as part of a solution to his country's woes.

June 2, 2011

Police officers who were investigating storm damage Thursday night stumbled upon a body. Officers were called to a home on John B. White Sr. Boulevard about a tree that had caught fire nearby. Capt. Randy Hardy, of the Spartanburg Public Safety Department, said it appeared lightning struck the tree and set some debris on fire beside the house. "They checked the house to see if there was anyone inside, and when they went inside there was a person inside deceased," Hardy said. The person's identity was not immediately released. Police said the person died from natural causes.

June 23, 2011

There have been a string of robberies outside Haywood Mall, and now Greenville police are working to find out if the cases are related. It's the 3rd incident outside the mall in as many months. The most recent robbery happened Wednesday to an unassuming teen. Incident reports show a man in his 30s approached a teen and asked for money and a ride. The man followed the victim to his car and after some pressure, got away with \$50. "We're dealing with three different victims in each case," says Greenville Police Sergeant Jason Rampey. "But the description they give in each case is very similar in nature. About the same age. About the same build. About the same weight. We think it's very possible that this is the same individual in each case." FOX Carolina contacted Haywood Mall property owner Simon Malls. They declined to go on camera but issued the following statement about mall safety and security. "Haywood Mall is committed to providing a safe, quality-shopping environment and takes several proactive security measures including maintaining a 24-hour patrol of the mall and surrounding parking lots as well as escorts to vehicles upon request," Simon Malls said. Haywood Mall security is working closely with Greenville Police to make sure a robbery like this doesn't happen again. If someone asks you for money, Sergeant Rampey says, "Just say no." "If it's something that makes you feel very uncomfortable, don't exit to a parking lot where you're by yourself. Stay in a populated area. Notify security as soon as you can or notify law enforcement as soon as you can." The robberies range anywhere from \$50 to \$500. If you know anything that can help, you're asked to call Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

June 24, 2011

A man's body was found at a home in Woodside on Friday afternoon, the Greenville County Coroner's Office said. The body was found at 125 Alice St. just before 4 p.m. Greenville County deputies said the man, described as being in his early 70's, was found dead by a neighbor who called 911. Deputies said the man's death is suspicious because it appears he may have been beaten. The man's name was not immediately released. Watch FOX Carolina News at 6:30 and stay with foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

June 30, 2011

Deputies in Spartanburg say they've busted what could turn out to be the largest moonshine operation in the county's history. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright says a tip led investigators to the elaborate distillery located on a farm off of Plantation Drive in Landrum. Deputies say they found more than 1,500 gallons of moonshine on the property. Wright says the ten month old investigation ended this morning with the arrest of three men in connection with the find. Deputies arrested Michael Blackwell who they say sold the moonshine out of a peach stand and charged him with distribution of untaxed liquor. Blackwell was released on a \$14,000 PR bond Thursday night. Also charged with distribution of untaxed liquor was Carroll Campbell and the owner of the property Larry Hyder. Investigators said Campbell and Hyder would turn themselves into authorities next week. Deputies also seized several vehicles and more than a hundred thousand dollars in cash during the raid. Wright said all of the suspects were cooperative and even showed him how the operation worked. Deputies will guard the property until the distillery is dismantled and all of the moonshine is removed Wright said.

Attachments



Education

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
-------------	-------------	----------------

April 6, 2011

Three students were hurt when a bus crashed in Rutherford County on Wednesday morning. The crash happened at the intersection of Bostic Sunshine Highway and Duncan's Creek Road in Golden Valley. A FOX Carolina crew at the scene said the bus driver swerved to miss a deer and the bus ran off the road. The students injuries were minor, the FOX Carolina crew said. The six students on board the bus were headed to Sunshine Elementary, the FOX Carolina crew reported. The bus driver was ticketed for failure to maintain lane control.

April 20, 2011

Owners of the Kindle from Amazon.com will be able to download e-books from 11,000 U.S. libraries later this year, the company said Wednesday. Most U.S. libraries already provide e-books, which work with nearly all e-readers except the Kindle. They're also accessible on many smartphones and tablets like the iPad. Amazon.com Inc. says it's working with OverDrive Inc., which runs e-book systems for public libraries, to make the system compatible with the Kindle. According to OverDrive, Kindle e-books will have the same lending terms as existing library e-books. Most libraries lend their books out for three weeks at a time. The e-books on Kindle will no longer open after that period of time. Libraries have a limited number of "copies" of each e-book, so borrowers sometimes must wait for popular titles. OverDrive said borrowers will browse for titles on PCs or phones, and can then chose to have them delivered to a Kindle or Amazon's Kindle applications for other devices, including phones and PCs. On iPhones and Android phones, borrowers can browse for books and download them directly today. Shares of Amazon.com Inc., which is based on Seattle, increased \$5.05, or 2.8 percent, to close Wednesday at \$183.87.

April 28, 2011

Tuition will be going up 4 percent in the fall at South Carolina State University in Orangeburg. Trustees voted on the increase Thursday. In-state students will pay an extra \$180 per semester. Out-of-state students will pay an additional \$350. Vice president of finance John Smalls says each 1 percent increase in tuition provides the school with an additional \$468,000. Food service costs will increase 1.6 percent. But housing fees will be reduced by \$250 per semester for most dorms. The school's budget is based on revenue projections of \$69 million and an enrollment of 4,500 students. The university handled a shortfall of several million dollars this year by freezing salaries and cutting costs.

April 29, 2011

President Obama has named two South Carolina educators as among the nation's top teachers in math and science. The White House announced Thursday that Brook Wiant of Beech Springs Intermediate School in Duncan and Mirandi Squires of Johnsonville Elementary have won the 2011 Presidential Award for Science and Math Teaching. The award goes to 85 winners across the country and includes a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that can be used at the winners' discretion. Wiant teaches math to fifth graders in the Spartanburg County school. She is an 11-year teaching veteran and was also named her school's Teacher of the Year for 2010-11. Squires teaches science to third graders in Johnsonville. She's been a teacher for 22 years and was a finalist for the award in 2008.

May 3, 2011

Greenville County Schools said the three schools that were locked down because a black bear was seen in the area are no longer on lockdown. Greenville County Schools communications coordinator Susan Clarke said that Thomas E. Kerns Elementary School, Southside High Academy and M.T. Anderson Support Center were locked down after someone spotted a black bear in the area. The lockdown on all three schools was lifted early Tuesday afternoon, but no outdoor recesses were planned, said Oby G. Lyles, director of communications for the school system. Clarke said authorities have been contacted regarding the animal. There have been no further reports regarding the bear, Lyles said. According to the South Carolina

Department of Natural Resources' website no one has been injured by a black bear in the state's recorded history and only three people's deaths have been attributed to bears in the southeast during the last 100 years. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

May 4, 2011

South Carolina school districts could get creative with the school day under a bill approved in the House. The measure would change the state's 180-day requirement for classroom time into the equivalent number of hours. Supporters said it gives districts flexibility. Opponents said it would open the door to four-day school weeks. The proposal would allow schools to tack some time onto school days. That would allow them to shave some days off the school calendar and still meet the required hours students must be in class. Public school advocates said some districts may opt to do that to cut expenses. The House approved the bill 90-3 last Thursday. It requires another vote before heading to the Senate. That perfunctory vote is expected this week.

June 1, 2011

University of South Carolina head football coach Steve Spurrier has a plan to pay players, and he said it wouldn't cost schools or conferences a dime. South Carolina's head ball coach offered an interesting yet far-from-feasible proposal Wednesday that would give 70 players \$300 every game for expenses. He said the money would come out of the coach's pocket. Spurrier acknowledged that the plan probably won't get very far at the Southeastern Conference's annual meetings or in the NCAA realm, but it could open the door for future dialogue on the issue of sharing millions in college football revenue with the guys who really make it happen. Spurrier, Alabama's Nick Saban, Florida's Will Muschamp, LSU's Les Miles, Mississippi's Houston Nutt, Mississippi State's Dan Mullen and Tennessee's Derek Dooley signed the proposal. SEC Commissioner Mike Slive calls it a "generous gesture."

June 7, 2011

The Asheville Police Department says a couple of bear cubs were running amuck through parts of the city. Lieutenant Wallace Welch of the department says the two bears were sighted near Asheville High School, forcing the school to be in a "soft lockdown", meaning students couldn't leave the building unless absolutely necessary. Police say the cubs then made their way to the Asheville Buncombe Technical College across the street, then they were gone. Lt. Welch says there have been more bear sightings then in year's past, and he recommends people of Asheville to stay away from the animals as best they can.

June 15, 2011

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley says she'll veto Senate plans to add extra cash to the state's [schools](#). Haley said the Senate plan spends money that should be used on other priorities. Growing state tax collections gave legislators \$210 million that they hadn't expected. The Senate version of the \$6 billion spending bill puts \$105 million of that into schools and \$100 million into an unemployment tax break for businesses with records of firing workers. Haley says the extra money should be used for tax breaks or otherwise sent back to taxpayers. She also says she's keeping an eye on plans to continue spending taxpayer money on South Carolina ETV, the state Arts [Commission](#) and anything that isn't a central function of government.

June 23, 2011

A new report shows fewer students dropped out of South Carolina's public [schools](#) last year. The report released Thursday by the state Education Department said nearly 6,300 high [school](#) students dropped out during the 2009-10 school year. That was less than 3 percent of ninth- through 12th-graders statewide. It's 800 fewer students than dropped out the previous year. Education Superintendent Mick Zais said the goal is to keep students focused and engaged from the start of kindergarten through graduation. Greenville County Schools said its dropout rate for the period was down for the second straight year despite an increase in enrollment. The district said it had a dropout rate of 2.8 percent for 2009-10 with 21,000 high school students enrolled. That number is down from the 2008-09 rate of 3.6 percent with 20,400 high school students enrolled. The year-to-year dropout rate is different than the graduation rate. The two are often incorrectly referred to interchangeably and used as political footballs. The graduation rate reflects the percentage of students who receive a regular diploma four years after entering ninth grade. The on-time graduation rate for 2010 was 72 percent.

Attachments



Environment

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

April 6, 2011

The unsettled weather along the South Carolina coast has caused thousands of starfish to wash on shore at Pawleys Island. State Department of Natural Resources Marine Division spokesman Phil Maier told The Sun News of Myrtle Beach that the starfish were likely dislodged from the rocks they usually stick to by rough seas Monday night. Beachgoers reported starfish littering sections of the beach Tuesday, some piled on top of each other. Maier said most of the starfish are still alive, and there is no need to throw them back in the ocean because Mother Nature will take care of them.

April 11, 2011

Hail and high winds will be possible as another storm system moves through the western Carolinas on Monday night, forecasters said. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said after a warm and breezy day, a cold front will sweep through the region overnight. Wilson said isolated showers and storms could develop in the far western part of the area by 8 p.m., but the bulk of the stormy weather will move through from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Tuesday. Wilson said this system does not appear to be as strong as last week's system that left behind widespread damage and power outages. However, she said, the storms could pack large hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes. She said the best chance for severe weather will be in the mountains. Tuesday looks unsettled and cooler with scattered showers and isolated storms possible, Wilson said. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest information on any severe weather that develops.

April 12, 2011

Three people were sent to a local hospital Tuesday after a chemical leak. The leak happened at Gregory Pest Solutions at 1313 Miller Road just before 10 a.m. Investigators said several workers were in the back of the building when they were exposed to a chemical. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said that a can containing the chemical ruptured, leading to the exposure. DHEC said none of the people who were sent to the hospital were seriously injured. "I know a lot of chemicals they worked with are suitable for households, so, because of that, I'm not highly alarmed by it," said Greg Force, who works at nearby Greenville Gymnastics. Officials did not say why the can ruptured. They also did not identify the chemical that caused the problem.

April 19, 2011

Family members and officials say at least 23 people were killed in North Carolina by the violent storms that devastated parts of the state. Police said Tuesday an infant in Raleigh died from storm-related injuries. Elsewhere, the family of a man in Lee County man said he died over the weekend. Authorities had previously identified only one person killed there. A confirmed tally had been difficult to reach because of the far-flung destruction and multiple government agencies involved. The Associated Press confirmed the identities of each of the 23 who died with relatives, local officials or state troopers. Bertie County was the hardest hit with 11 people killed.

April 27, 2011

FOX Carolina meteorologist Alexandra Wilson said large hail, damaging winds and isolated tornadoes are possible with storms Wednesday night. The Storm Prediction Center placed much of the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia under a moderate risk for severe weather, the second level on the three-level scale. Wilson said the area should see some sunshine through early afternoon, which will likely increase the instability necessary for the development of severe weather. However, she said a strong line of storms moving through eastern Tennessee that was forecast to weaken could change the severe weather potential if it continues to hold together. The strongest storms will move through from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Thursday, Wilson said, but there is a possibility of isolated showers and thunderstorms by the afternoon in western North Carolina. Wilson said windy weather can be expected before the severe weather begins. She said winds could gust to as high as 35 mph. A lake wind advisory was issued by the National Weather Service for all of the western Carolinas from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Temperatures will climb into the upper 70s in the mountains and low to middle 80s by Wednesday afternoon. The same storm system has already left behind significant damage and flooding in places such as Arkansas and Missouri.

April 28, 2011

All of the severe watches and warnings for the upstate and mountains have expired as of 4:40 am. FOX Carolina meteorologist Alex Wilson said the severe weather threat has ended, but gusty winds can be expected for Thursday morning. Wilson said

clouds will move out throughout the day and eventually turn to sunny skies. Temperatures will be in the upper 70's in the upstate Thursday, the mountains will see temperatures in the upper 60's. The same storm system left a destructive mark on other parts of the southeast. Significant damage and flooding can be seen in places such as Arkansas, Missouri and Alabama and at least 82 people are dead across four states.

April 28, 2011

Some residents in Rabun County, Ga., are cleaning up after powerful storms moved through Wednesday night into Thursday morning. One of the hardest hit areas was Mountain City where storms knocked down trees on homes and on roadways along Highway 17. Officials were forced to shutdown Highway 76 because of all the debris. The storms were powerful enough to blow roofs off of houses. The steeple on top of Mountain City United Methodist Church was hanging on by a thread Thursday morning. Crews have been trying to fix downed power lines and restore power since the storm hit. Georgia Power reported about 54,000 customers were still without power Thursday morning.

May 19, 2011

U.S. government forecasters are expecting three to six major hurricanes from an above average Atlantic storm season. The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration released its forecast for the 2011 season Thursday. Scientists said as many as 18 named tropical storms may develop. Six to 10 of those could strengthen into hurricanes with top winds of at least 74 mph. Three to six could become major hurricanes, with maximum winds of 111 mph and up. The six-month Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30. Last year's hurricane season was one of the busiest on record with 19 named storms, including 12 hurricanes. No major hurricane has made a U.S. landfall in the last five years, but scientists said coastal residents can't expect their luck to hold.

May 24, 2011

Coastal residents who depend on a South Carolina program for their hurricane insurance will be paying about 10 percent more this year. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported the South Carolina Wind and Hail Underwriting Association is raising rates an average of 9.8 percent this year. The costs are for those who cannot get private insurance. Most barrier island residential property is insured through the program. The state program insures more than \$17 billion in property along the coast. Association executive director Smitty Harrison said the group had asked the state Insurance Department for a 19 percent increase. The new rates apply to policies that are renewed on Sept. 1.

May 31, 2011

Forecasters said near-record heat will settle in to the western Carolinas for the remainder of the week. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said high temperatures will climb to 97 degrees in Greenville on Tuesday -- one degree shy of the record high of 98 degrees set in 1953. Wood said the mercury will climb to 92 degrees in Asheville on Tuesday. That would break the record high of 91 degrees set in 1895. Temperatures are forecast to be in the upper 90s for much of the area for the remainder of the week, Wood said. Wood said there is a small chance of an isolated thunderstorm each afternoon. Experts said people who work outside should take frequent breaks in an air-conditioned room, drink plenty of non-caffeinated and non-alcoholic beverages and wear lightweight and light-colored clothing.

June 1, 2011

Coastal residents, you've been warned: Hurricane season has begun. The six-month Atlantic hurricane season begins Wednesday and continues through Nov. 30. Federal forecasters said they expect three to six major hurricanes from an above-average storm season. Major hurricanes are storms with top winds of 111 mph and up. No major hurricanes have made a U.S. landfall in five years, but forecasters warn that luck might not last. Emergency managers from Texas to Maine urge residents to develop disaster plans and determine whether they live in evacuation zones. The administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency also wants residents to make social media part of their disaster plans, now that FEMA posts on Twitter and the National Hurricane Center has a Facebook page.

June 3, 2011

A lightning strike hit an Upstate building, sending flames and thick, black smoke into the air for nearly an hour Thursday afternoon. The building is near the intersection of Forest Avenue and Union Street in Spartanburg. Officials said part of the brick building, which was being used to store wood furniture, collapsed because of the flames. Crews sprayed down a neighboring building to stop the fire from spreading. "Right now, there's just one building involved, as far as we know. Only damage to that one building. We are trying to get in contact with the others where we can get access to other buildings to check them for damage also," said Spartanburg Fire Chief Bill Hall. Fire crews remained on scene for hours after the fire was

extinguished to make sure there were no more hot spots. The fire was in a residential neighborhood, but no homes were damaged.

June 6, 2011

A severe thunderstorm caused damage in parts of Laurens County on Sunday night. A large tree toppled over near the entrance of Laurens County Hospital. No one was hurt and the hospital operation was not affected. Not far from the hospital, winds knocked a large awning off the Stop and Shop gas station in Clinton. FOX Carolina's crew in Laurens County says the storms appeared to hit hardest along Highway 76 between Clinton and Laurens.

June 15, 2011

Taylors took a hard hit Wednesday evening with trees and [power](#) lines down. Fox Carolina crews also found trees that fell on two houses on Boiling Court. On Thursday morning, residents were coming out to assess the damage and start cleaning up. The two families tell us they were home when the trees fell on their homes. Taylors fire and rescue spent the evening removing trees from the road and debris from the roads. Residents who live on Taylors Road tell us it happened so fast. "It came up in a hurry. We have a tree down in our backyard and my neighbor's trampoline from two [houses](#) down is in my front yard," said Jim McCulloch. One man came out on Thursday to help his parents remove the tree that fell on their home on Boling Court. "A good bit of work here. It's really unsafe to walk in but we have to get the trees out before we can get anything out of it." People on Boling Court told FOX Carolina crews that no one was hurt in the storms.

June 16, 2011

Storms that rolled through the Upstate and Western North Carolina on Wednesday night caused trees to fall in roadways. Several FOX Carolina viewers say they had to take detours on Thursday morning because of large trees on secondary roads. A massive tree fell on Hammett Road in Greenville County, blocking the way for drivers. As of Thursday morning, that tree had not been removed. Several trees fell on Roper Mountain Road on Wednesday night, causing problems for the evening commute. However, drivers tell us the road was mostly cleared by Thursday morning. On Thursday, the [Highway](#) Patrol's website showed debris blocking the road at I-385 and Georgia Road in Greenville County and a tree in the road at Reidville Road and Bennett Bridge in Spartanburg County. The website also reported power lines in the road at Highway 417 and Greenpond Road in Spartanburg County. On the FOX Carolina News Facebook page, people have been keeping us informed of what's going on the roads. Shelly wrote, "Tree down at the 500 block of Strange Rd, Taylors. Morning commute will be hard to get around." Marie wrote, "...tree across road at old airport Hwy 92 off 49." Jessica wrote, "No [power](#) in Taylors and roads blocked." On The Morning News on Thursday, Meteorologist Alexandra Wilson reminded everyone to be careful while driving in the dark and in the morning fog. "A little bit of fog out there this morning, so that could make it a little more difficult to see some of the tree branches or other debris in the roadways. You will have to watch for that. Even though visibilities are not overly low, some light fog means, give yourself even more time." Because of the power outages, several traffic lights are also out in the area. Drivers on Pelham Road in Greenville County reported at least two traffic light outages to FOX Carolina. The Highway Patrol website reports a light is out at Old Spartanburg Road and East North Street in Greenville County.

June 16, 2011

Bright Eyes Daycare and Kindergarten on Roper Mountain Road in Greenville County is closed after a tree fell through the roof during Wednesday's storms. Owner Rosa Mattress says the [school](#) is closed until further notice. No one was hurt. On that same road, firefighters had to rescue a woman from her [car](#) after a tree fell on it Wednesday night. People on the scene told FOX Carolina the woman is okay.

June 20, 2011

A storm system moved through the Upstate, Western North Carolina and Northeast Georgia overnight on Monday, bringing down trees and [power](#) lines. The city of Belton in Anderson County is one of the hardest hit areas. On Brown Avenue, one tree fell on a house and another tree fell on the property of First Baptist Church. The storm knocked the awning off Maynard's Home Furnishings on Highway 178. Belton Fire Chief Alan Sims said, "It was just a lot of wind, a lot of hail, um, significant amount of wind." Chief Sims said the majority of the damage is in an area that stretches from Maynard's to South Main Street. Hundreds of people in the Belton area woke up with no power on Monday. The storms brought down some power lines, including one that caught on fire behind a fast food restaurant on South Main Street. According to Duke Energy's website, about 900 [customers](#) are without power in Anderson County as of Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported in the storm.

June 20, 2011

Several rounds of severe storms swept through the Upstate, Mountains and Northeast Georgia on Saturday, Sunday and overnight Monday. The result was downed trees, damage to homes and [power](#) outages. During the weekend storms, a tree fell into the front yard of a home on Lavinia Avenue in Greenville. It also knocked down a power line and caught fire. Witnesses say the [home owner](#) could not walk out of the house, because of the live wires and large tree. On Sunday, Townes Street in Greenville was shut down after two giant trees fell on top of a power line and sparked a small fire. Power was knocked out throughout the neighborhood, including the Bi-Lo grocery store and the Holiday Inn nearby. Neighbors spent Sunday evening watching fire crews, and then electric company crews tend to the downed trees. "It's a shame, a tree this size going down in our neighborhood, because these trees are what really characterize our neighborhood," said Peter Maxey. Early Monday morning, another round of storms came through, this time hitting the Belton area of Anderson County particularly hard. Trees and power lines were down, mostly in an area that stretched from Maynard's Home Furnishings on Highway 178 over to South Main Street.

According to Duke Energy's website, about 800 people are without power in Anderson County as of Monday afternoon. Duke is showing less than 100 outages in each of the other Upstate counties. In Western North Carolina, Duke's site shows about 200 outages in Macon County and about 550 outages in Jackson County remain as of Monday afternoon

June 23, 2011

After [two](#) weeks of heavy storms, there has been a lot of damage to buildings and homes because of hail. Experts say if you see damage to the siding or roof of your home, you should search for a reputable company to assess the damage. Craig Perfect with Allcon Roofing says when searching for a repair company, use the Better [Business](#) Bureau to find one that is in good standing and never *make a payment for repairs before it has been completed.*

June 27, 2011

Residents of Pickens County will have to have a decal indicating their residency on their [vehicles](#) to use a recycling center beginning Nov. 1. Officials said the new rule is to help ensure that only residents of Pickens County are using the facilities. "Over the last several years, we have seen an increase in the number of people who live outside Pickens County that use our recycling stations," said Pickens County Recycling Director Lou Holder. The free decals may be picked up from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at area recycling centers on the following days:

Sept. 3 - Easley - 2053 Old Liberty Road

Sept. 10 - Bes Pac - 2630 Farris Bridge Road

Sept. 17 - Willow Springs - 127 Willow Springs Road

Sept. 24 - N. Old Pendleton - 205 Anton Drive

Oct. 1 - Chastain Road - 600 Chastain Road

Oct. 8 - Dacusville - 190 Raxter Road

Oct. 15 - Table Rock - Back Park Road

Oct. 22 - Midway - [Highway](#) 178

After Nov. 1, decals will be available at the Pickens County Auditor's Office. Residents must show their vehicle registration to verify residency.

June 28, 2011

Spartanburg residents will not be allowed to put electronics in their trash that will be picked up at the curb beginning July 1. Officials said it will be against the law to dispose of [computers](#), computer monitors, televisions and printers at the landfill because the items must be recycled. A number of recycling center locations have been set up to accept electronics: Spartanburg - White Stone at 379 Brown Road; Chesnee - 390 Sulphur Springs Road; Woodruff - Hobbysville at 1493 Kilgore Bridge Road; Wellford - 591 Little Mountain Road

June 30, 2011

A hot, dry June is ending in South Carolina. The high in Columbia should be in the low 90s on Friday, and if forecasters are right, this June will become the first June in more than 120 years of weather records where the high every day was 90 degrees or above. Every other June has had at least three days in the 80s. It has been a dry June in other places, as well. Florence has only had 0.02 inches of rain and Myrtle Beach has seen just 0.85 inches of rain this month as a drought worsens in the eastern part of the state. No records have been set in Greenville, but the high at the [airport](#) has been above average for all but two days this June.

Attachments



Government

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

April 7, 2011

A state lawmaker has filed legislation he hopes will help the more than two dozen injured in a children's train ride crash in Spartanburg. Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler said the bill he filed Wednesday would exclude medical expenses from the current liability cap that protects the government from paying unlimited damages. That cap is currently set at \$600,000 per occurrence, regardless of the number of government entities involved. The Gaffney Republican said the bill would need to be retroactive to help people hurt in the March 19 miniature train crash at Spartanburg's Cleveland Park. Twenty-seven people were injured. Six-year-old Benji Easler was killed. If passed, Peeler's bill would allow people to recover all medical costs and lost earnings but would lower the limit on other damages like pain and suffering.

April 7, 2011

Still at odds as a shutdown looms, House Speaker John Boehner and President Barack Obama on Thursday failed to reach a deal to keep the government running, but talks will continue. The House's plan for a stopgap measure was met with a veto threat by Obama. Boehner, addressing reporters on the White House driveway after the talks, said "all of us sincerely believe that we can get to an agreement." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, also in the negotiations, said another meeting with the president would happen later in the day. "We'll see you back here at 7 o'clock," Reid said. All sides are working on a last-minute deal to avert a partial government shutdown that looms at midnight Friday. There was no immediate comment from Obama or his staff. Boehner said he asked Obama to sign a stopgap measure the House passed Thursday afternoon that would fund the government for one more week, make \$12 billion in cuts, and fully fund the Pentagon through September. The speaker said he expressed his direct disappointment to Obama that the president intended to veto the bill if it ever got to his desk. But Obama calls the measure a distraction from negotiations on a full-year spending bill and has promised he would veto it. It's unlikely to ever reach him. The partisan House vote sent the measure to the Democratic Senate, where Democrats say they will let it perish. After the White House meeting, Boehner said, "There is no agreement on a number, there's no agreement on the policy issues." Republicans blasted Democrats for refusing to guarantee that pay to troops overseas wouldn't be delayed and sought to blame them for the possibility of a government shutdown. Democrats said it was past time to complete negotiations on the full-year funding bill and complained about a provision in the House bill banning taxpayer-financed abortions in Washington, D.C. Obama said in an earlier statement he believes "we need to put politics aside and work out our differences" on a spending plan that covers the government through September, when the current budget year ends. For Boehner and Reid, it was the second sit-down with the president in a little more than 12 hours. The developments amounted to a sour turn in talks that all three men said Wednesday night were showing promise. Obama has already signed two stopgap bills, containing a total of \$10 billion in cuts, to allow time for negotiations on a bill to close out the budget year. Republicans want more cuts as part of any deal, bringing the total to perhaps \$40 billion, as well as non-spending items that would curtail the reach of the Environmental Protection Agency and cut off federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Before departing the Capitol, Boehner urged the House to pass legislation to cut \$12 billion, fund the Pentagon through the end of the year and keep the government running for a week. "There is absolutely no policy reason for the Senate to not follow the House in taking these responsible steps to support our troops and to keep our government open," he said. Boehner accused the White House of backsliding, adding that there hadn't been as much progress as it appeared after the late-night meeting Wednesday. "It's really just more of the same. We're going to have real spending cuts. I don't know what some people don't understand about this," he said. Reid made it clear that he, too, wants to avoid a shutdown that the White House says would cause problems for combat troops overseas and delay Internal Revenue Service refunds for some taxpayers at home. "The issue is ideology, not numbers," he said. He criticized Republican proposals to limit the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency and prohibit the use of federal or local funds to pay for most abortions in the District of Columbia. "These matters have no place on a budget bill,"

he said. California Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House democratic leader, took issue with the Republicans' decision to include defense money in the bill. "For them to want to disguise their bad proposal by hiding behind our troops is really a disservice to our troops," she said. Despite Reid's assertion that the two sides largely had agreed on spending cuts, Boehner said partial agreements were not possible. Boehner recently floated \$40 billion in cuts, more than the \$33 billion that the negotiators had adopted as a framework. But it was less than the \$61 billion in a House-passed bill. Other policy issues pressed by Republicans include blocking money to put in place Obama's health care bill; effectively stripping the EPA from enforcing rules on global warming and cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and lakes in Florida; and limiting enforcement of last year's financial overhaul law. Obama emerged from the negotiations late Wednesday night to declare that differences between Republicans and Democrats had narrowed somewhat. He also said only urgent action could avert a shutdown. Even a brief shutdown could affect a wide range of Americans, from troops fighting abroad who are awaiting their pay to tourists planning trips to national parks. The move by Boehner to advance a one-week interim budget measure angered his Democratic negotiating counterparts. It appeared aimed at shifting political blame if a shutdown occurs. The announcement of Thursday's vote angered Democrats who felt talks were progressing. It's also about the last piece of leverage Boehner had, using the Pentagon budget to put political pressure on Democrats and to seek to blame them for a shutdown. But after a shutdown, Boehner's options appear to become more limited.

April, 25, 2011

Spartanburg's smoking ban ordinance passed the first reading during a City Council meeting Monday. The new proposal could mean that smoking would be banned inside restaurants, and smokers at those establishments must be 15 feet away from entrances and exits before they light up. The proposal also bans smoking at outdoor events like Jazz on the Square. "I would have no problem with the ordinance if it was rewritten to when an establishment could serve food in an outdoor environment and allow smoking at the same time," said Bradley Carter, a smoker. During the meeting, those on both sides of the heated debate were asked to take a deep breath before speaking. "I am just thrilled," said Jan Benajmin, a non-smoker who supports the ban. Benjamin stood in front of the council and talked about her stepfather, who died from lung cancer. She said she blames second-hand smoke. "To be able to go into an eating establishment, a restaurant here in Spartanburg, and not have to worry about whether there's going to be a smoker next to you, is a wonderful thing," Benjamin said. After discussion and debate, council members voted to pass the proposal. Councilman Robert Reeder, who voted against the proposal, said he doesn't support smoking in restaurants, but believes there should be a designated area for smokers at outdoor events. "I'm not for smoking, but we're using taxpayers' money for these events," Reeder said. "When we're using taxpayers' money for these events and we stated earlier that there will be a designated area, then we come back and change that, they have the right to participate in smoking." If the proposal becomes law, businesses like cigar bars would be exempt from the ban. Council members said the ban will be complaint driven, meaning police will first give business owners a warning, but the next time they would be given a ticket. Fines would range anywhere from \$25 to \$100. If a business owner tells a customer to stop smoking and he or she won't, then police would give the customer the fine, not the business owner. Council members will have their second reading on the ban in two weeks.

April 26, 2011

A new poll of South Carolina voters shows that more than 40 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents think it's possible that President Barack Obama could win re-election in 2012. The Winthrop University poll released Tuesday shows Republicans overwhelmingly disapprove of the way Obama's handling his job. However, 43 percent of Republicans and conservative independents said his chances for a second term are at least somewhat likely. The telephone survey was conducted last week. Responses from Republicans and GOP-leaners have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent. Of the 15 Republicans offered in the survey as contenders, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee placed first with 18 percent, followed by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney with 16 percent. "Not sure" was the No. 1 pick for 17 percent.

May 1, 2011

Residents and leaders of the western Carolinas are sharing the relief and pride felt by many Americans over the death of Osama bin Laden -- the man accused of leading the group behind the 9/11 terrorist attacks. President Barack Obama announced Sunday night that a U.S.-led military operation killed the leader of al-Qaida. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley released a statement about the milestone in the war on terror. "Justice has been served," Haley said. "While this does not mean the war on terror is over, it is positive news and a great credit to the men and women fighting our enemies, day in and day out." South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham said he was called by Vice President Joe Biden and told of bin Laden's death. "The message of tonight is, 'If you do harm to the American people, there is no safe place to hide,'" Graham said in a phone interview with FOX Carolina. "(There is) no passage of time that will keep you from meeting justice." Graham's fellow Sen. Jim DeMint called bin Laden's death a confirmation to freedom's enemies around the world about the inevitable end of a life of terror. "Like all Americans, my thoughts and prayer tonight go out to the families of the thousands of people who have been murdered by bin

Laden and his al-Qaida accomplices, both in the terror plots he orchestrated and the ongoing war he started," DeMint said. South Carolina Rep. Trey Gowdy said bin Laden's death is an important victory in the fight against al-Qaida. "Osama bin Laden represented a grave threat to our national security and was an enemy to the cause of freedom around the world," Gowdy said. "After nearly a decade, evil has been brought to justice." North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr called bin Laden's death the culmination of the greatest manhunt ever undertaken by American forces. "This is a major development in our fight against terrorism and proves our resolve to hold accountable those who harm American citizens," Burr said in a statement. "We must remain vigilant and not lose focus on the overall mission and our goal of eradicating terrorist threats." Many people who were enjoying breakfast at Tommy's Ham House in Greenville on Monday morning said they are relieved at bin Laden's death, but said they are worried about more terrorist attacks in retaliation. Others said they are proud to be Americans. For complete coverage of Osama bin Laden's death, go to [our special section](#).

May 2, 2011

The U.S. Army base at Fort Jackson raised its threat level as military forces abroad pursued and ultimately killed Osama bin Laden over the weekend. Spokesman Pat Jones said Fort Jackson on Sunday raised its force protection level to Bravo, the third of five levels. Jones said the level was raised because national military activity raised the possibility of retaliation against U.S. assets around the world. Fort Jackson is the Army's largest training site and graduates more than 60,000 soldiers from its schools every year. U.S. officials said bin Laden was killed near the end of the 40-minute raid Sunday on the Pakistan compound where he had been living. Navy SEALs retrieved bin Laden's body and turned detainees over to Pakistani authorities.

May 3, 2011

South Carolina's chief justice has ordered a stop to all pending foreclosures until the parties involved can complete an intervention process. Chief Justice Jean Toal wrote in the order published Tuesday that all pending foreclosures are on hold while homeowners try to mitigate their losses and perhaps modify their loans. This is the second time in as many years that Toal has halted foreclosures. In 2009, she ordered South Carolina judges to stop finalizing foreclosure sales on thousands of properties guaranteed by Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae or any other mortgage company that had signed on to a federal assistance program, saying she wanted to give homeowners time to take advantage of the help. Two weeks later, Toal replaced the injunction with procedures to ensure foreclosures were handled uniformly.

May 4, 2011

Public employees in South Carolina who report wrongdoing would have greater job protections under a bill introduced in the Senate. The so-called whistleblower protection act was introduced Tuesday by Republican Sen. Jake Knotts of West Columbia and Democratic Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden. The measure would delete a one-year limit on job protection. State law currently says public employees can sue an agency if they're fired, demoted, suspended or if their pay is reduced within a year of reporting a wrongdoing. The protections don't apply if the report is unfounded. The measure would also allow employees to collect a higher award if their report of abuse saves taxpayers money. The employee can collect up to 25 percent of the estimated net savings. That's currently capped at \$2,000.

May 4, 2011

FOX News and the South Carolina Republican Party will host the first in the South presidential debate in Greenville on Thursday night. On Wednesday, FOX Carolina got a behind-the-scenes look at the setup for the debate. The cameras were in place, the logo was shining on the floor and five podiums were lined up at the Peace Center in downtown. Some FOX crew members flew into Greenville this week after working on the royal wedding in London. They said the key to a successful debate is in the details. "We've designed a set that we can use multiple places to save money," said senior director of productions for FOX News Jeff Hark. "We have a crew of about 100 people here, doing this debate, which includes the debate program, but we're also doing other programs here." None of the top five GOP contenders in recent polls will be part of the debate. Yet, FOX News reporter and debate panelist Shannon Bream said a candidate's campaign can take off if they impress South Carolina and the nation on national television. "I think this is a good chance for people who may not have gotten as much attention, may not have had as much time to speak to voters, to really get that one-on-one face time in a debate like this," Bream said. "It's their opportunity to shine. They've got to make the most of it." Debate participants include Atlanta businessman Herman Cain, former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, Texas Rep. Ron Paul, former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum. The 90-minute debate starts at 9 p.m. Thursday. It will be broadcast live on the FOX News Channel. **Why Greenville?** When it came to choosing Greenville for the debate location, Mayor Knox White said FOX executives searched the state for the right venue. He said FOX's news director called the downtown area and the Peace Center startling and dazzling. FOX news political analyst Juan Williams, who will be one of the panelists Thursday night, called the Greenville debate the home-field advantage for South Carolinians. "People pay more attention (when the

debate is nearby)," Williams said. "You have a rooting interest and you want to see if they're speaking to your concerns." Williams said issues relating to South Carolinians will be discussed at the debate. South Carolina GOP Executive Director Karen Floyd said she sees the state as a representation of the country, but uniquely important to political decision making. "In all of the interviews, people say South Carolina is the most prolific and exciting place," Floyd said, "We take our politics really seriously." Floyd said the debate is a sold-out event, but eyes around the country will be on Greenville on Thursday night.

May 9, 2011

The latest budget plan would allow the South Carolina's Education Department to replace decades-old school buses that carry disabled students. The Senate has designated more than \$12 million for new school buses in its \$5.8 billion spending plan for the coming year. Senators voted to take the money from unclaimed lottery prizes. Legislators have not set aside money for school buses since the 2007-08 budget. The agency's transportation director says the state could buy about 140 buses with the \$12.4 million. The agency would focus on replacing buses for special needs students, which require lifts and spaces for wheelchairs. Don Tudor said all but a handful of the state's oldest buses from 1984 through 1987 carry disabled students. The Senate's budget debate continues this week.

May 13, 2011

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and other state officials spent time leading up to the Heritage golf tournament trying to woo companies to become a sponsor for the PGA Tour event. The State, of Columbia, reported Sunday that emails show Hailey and Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt consider it essential that the state find a new sponsor for the event, which brings thousands of visitors to Hilton Head Island each spring. According to the emails, state agencies spent \$10,000 to produce a marketing video to try to win over a sponsor. State and tournament officials have yet to see any fruit from their labors, which included using a \$15 million yacht that belongs to a well-known Charleston attorney to entertain executives from potential sponsor companies.

May 18, 2011

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney will use one of former President George W. Bush's campaign lieutenants as a top South Carolina adviser to his presidential exploratory committee. Romney's campaign said Thursday that David Raad will be a senior adviser. In 2000, Raad was Bush's regional director in South Carolina's northwestern counties. He went on to work for the U.S. State Department and returned to direct Bush's 2004 re-election campaign in Missouri. Saturday will mark Romney's first visit to South Carolina since forming his exploratory committee in April. Other potential candidates are adding campaign staff as well. Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty on Monday hired former state GOP staffer Kurt Pickhardt as his South Carolina political director.

May 19, 2011

The debate over whether to give Amazon.com a sales tax exemption in exchange for 2,000 South Carolina jobs is moving to the state Senate. The House gave the necessary perfunctory vote Thursday to send the proposal to the Senate chamber. The proposal would give the Seattle-based online retailer a five-year exemption on collecting sales tax from online shoppers in South Carolina. In return, the company must create at least 2,000 full-time jobs and invest at least \$125 million by the end of 2013. The key vote in the House came Wednesday with a 97-20 approval, a remarkable reversal of that chamber's rejection three weeks ago. Legislators who changed their vote say Amazon's willingness to sweeten its offer with more jobs and investment helped prove the company's commitment to the state.

May 24, 2011

South Carolina senators have approved a \$6 billion spending plan that locks in spending reductions for Medicaid while adding money to public schools and giving tax breaks to businesses. The spending plan heading back to the House includes \$105 million added to public school budgets and a \$100 million tax break for businesses with records of firing people. It also would cut Medicaid provider reimbursements by \$125 million. The final 23-16 vote Tuesday on the spending bill for the fiscal year that begins July 1 came as debate entered a fifth week and senators agreed to cut off extended discussion. The protracted budget debate had threatened to maroon key legislation that Republican lawmakers and Gov. Nikki Haley want passed before the Legislature adjourns next week.

May 25, 2011

The South Carolina House approved a bill requiring law enforcement to try to check the status of people they suspect are in the country illegally on Tuesday. The House voted 69-43 for the key second reading. The measure requires another perfunctory vote before returning to the Senate, which passed a different version. Republicans who control both the House and Senate have called the bill a top priority for the year. The bill specifies that the check must follow a stop or arrest for something else. Unlike a law passed in Arizona last year, it says people can't be held on the suspicion. Instead, they must be processed normally if authorities don't respond. Opponents argued it flies in the face of American freedoms and encourages racial profiling.

May 31, 2011

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives is expected to vote down legislation Tuesday that would raise the federal government's debt limit by approximately \$2.4 trillion without requiring any new spending cuts. The bill would ensure Washington's ability to keep paying its bills through the end of 2012. The vote was scheduled by GOP leaders to show that any attempt to divorce an increase in the debt ceiling from spending reduction efforts -- a move initially favored by the Obama White House -- is a political nonstarter. Democrats are calling the move a dangerous political stunt that could rattle financial markets. "We understand the views that are being expressed" by the vote, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters. "We share the concerns that drive those views. (But) in the end, the debt ceiling has to be raised." President Barack Obama is scheduled to meet with congressional Republicans on Wednesday as part of the administration's ongoing debt-ceiling and related budget negotiations. Vice President Joe Biden has been holding similar talks with a bipartisan congressional delegation in recent weeks. The federal government hit its current debt ceiling limit of roughly \$14.3 trillion on May 16. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner has indicated he can keep the country out of default until August 2, but warned of potentially devastating financial consequences after that point. Numerous analysts say that a failure to reach an agreement raising the debt limit could lead to skyrocketing interest rates, a plummeting dollar and a higher cost of living for most Americans. Democrats have argued that any attempt to attach conditions to an increase in the ceiling is akin to playing a game of "chicken" with the economy. But GOP leaders, who campaigned in 2010 on an agenda of fiscal responsibility, are vehemently opposed to any increase in the debt ceiling without major spending cuts. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, declared earlier this month that the overall size of any spending cuts has to exceed the magnitude of any debt-ceiling increase. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, has said that any vote in favor of raising the ceiling should be accompanied by significant new cuts in discretionary spending over the next two years, followed by significant changes over the longer term to costly entitlement programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. The question of how to control the explosive growth in popular entitlements may be the most critical question in the current debate over Washington's fiscal health. Leaders from both parties agree that some kind of change is necessary in Medicare in particular, but differ sharply on scope and shape. Democrats are pushing for tax increases on wealthier Americans as a way to reduce the need for sharp cuts. They have ripped their GOP counterparts for allegedly taking advantage of the current crisis to try to dismantle a social safety net in place since President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. More specifically, Democrats are slamming the fiscal year 2012 blueprint put forward by House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin. Under Ryan's plan, which aims to cut federal deficits by roughly \$4.4 trillion over the next decade, Medicare would be overhauled starting in 2022. The government would no longer directly pay bills for senior citizens in the program. Instead, recipients would choose a plan from a list of private providers, which the federal government would subsidize. While individuals currently over the age of 55 would not be affected by the changes, numerous political strategists believe the proposal will prove to be deeply unpopular among nervous seniors. Democrats captured a traditional Republican U.S. House seat from western New York this month after running a campaign highlighting their opposition to the Ryan plan. Last year, GOP leaders repeatedly attacked the health care reform law pushed through by Democrats, arguing that it would weaken Medicare. Republican congressional candidates crushed their Democratic counterparts among voters age 65 and older in the November congressional elections, carrying seniors by a 21-point margin. While voters have expressed concern over the rapidly growing debt, they have also shown strong opposition to major entitlement spending reductions. Six in 10 voters said they were opposed to raising the debt ceiling in an April 29-May 1 CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll. Only 14% of voters, however, supported Medicare spending cuts in a March 11-13 CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey. Sixty percent of voters in the April 29-May 1 survey said congressional Republicans are not acting responsibly in the debt ceiling talks. A slight plurality of voters -- 49% -- said Obama is not acting responsibly.

May 31, 2011

A brief visit to the Senate chamber by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley touched off a heated exchange on the Senate floor. Haley stopped inside the chamber Tuesday to talk with a couple of senators. After her brief visit Sen. Jake Knotts, R-Lexington, told senators that Haley hadn't been invited to come inside. Knotts is the chairman of the Senate's invitations committee which approves those visits. He's a frequent critic of Haley who referred to her with a racial slur last year in the governor's race. Knotts conceded Haley doesn't need an invitation because she was a member of the House. Sen. Greg Ryberg, R-Aiken, is one of Haley's top Senate allies. He angrily said Knotts doesn't miss a chance to "stick it to the governor."

May 31, 2011

South Carolina's first inspector general has resigned. George Schroeder told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he resigned at the end of April, after six weeks on the job. Schroeder had been named to the \$110,000 per year post in March by Gov. Nikki Haley. She created it to find waste and fraud. Schroeder said he resigned because he believes a state law is needed to operate effectively. He said a law would clear up staffing and administrative questions. He also said the position should be independent of the governor and Legislature. Schroeder used to head the Legislative Audit Council. After the November

election, Haley put Schroeder in charge of a panel to review state spending and suggest cuts. The group briefed Haley but produced no formal final report.

June 1, 2011

U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint's spokesman is trying to quell speculation about the South Carolina Republican's political ambitions. Spokesman Matt Hoskins said Wednesday that DeMint was seeking to be respectful of supporters when he told a media outlet he was discussing a potential 2012 presidential bid with his wife. DeMint is a tea party favorite and has taken on a kingmaker role by raising cash for candidates including Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. His entry would likely have an outsized effect on early voting South Carolina. Hoskins said DeMint is not running but wanted to be respectful of supporters urging him on. In his interview with "The Hill," the senator reiterated he has no plans to run and said it "would take an extraordinary set of circumstances" for him to do so.

June 2, 2011

South Carolina would create an 11-day window for early voting under legislation heading to the House. The House rejected early voting efforts last month when it was tied to a bill requiring voters to show state or federal issued photographic identification. The Senate on Wednesday added the measure to a bill dealing with primary elections. Columbia Democratic Sen. John Scott said it was a last chance for the House to give voters more time to vote. The legislation says counties will set up at least one early voting center that would be open at least two Saturdays before primaries and elections. Counties can have up to three early voting centers.

June 8, 2011

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said her failed bid to bring lawmakers back into session this week may still help get her agenda passed. The Republican governor told The Associated Press on Tuesday that her priority for legislators as they return next week is a measure creating a new agency that puts bureaucratic functions under her control. Haley said the current system that has agencies running separate computer systems, for example, is inefficient. Haley had ordered lawmakers back to work, but the state's high court ruled Monday the governor could not call legislators back this week while they are on break. The Senate's top officer said Haley's heavy-handed tactic may have hurt her bid for more authority. Haley said the dispute put more attention on the Senate to get it done

June 28, 2011

The Greenville City Council decided Monday night to delay voting a new version of the smoking ordinance. The new rules would be tacked on to the existing smoking ban that took effect Jan. 1, 2007. The addendums would outlaw smoking on restaurant patios and in private clubs. On Monday night, five residents took the podium. After their concerns were voiced, council members decided the language in the new rules was not clear enough. The City Council said it wants to meet with concerned [business](#) owners to clarify some details of the new rules. Greenville's original smoking ordinance was challenged in the South Carolina Supreme Court after [it](#) was passed, but was upheld by the state's highest court.

June 28, 2011

As Latin tunes soothed listeners, a conversation about a new state immigration law also lit up the lines. "Some people, they don't really understand what's going on with the law," Roger Martinez, a radio host with WOLI 103.9 FM said. Listeners tuned in to get information. "How will they enforce the law and how the community will be affected," Martinez said. It's the only Hispanic radio station in the Upstate and to help those in the community understand what's going on. Wilfredo Leon, the publisher of the "Latino Newspaper," was a guest speaker Monday afternoon. "The immigration system is broken, but the solution is not necessarily to criminalize the situation," he said. After Governor Nikki Haley made it official Monday, a group gathered inside the state house in protest. They said the new law legalizes racial profiling. "If it's going to be used on how I sound, do I have an accent, do I look this way or that way," Leon said. The new law allows police to check the immigration status of a person who is stopped or arrested after another violation. "We have a very specific prohibition on racial profiling and as you well know law enforcement officers are required to document their reasons for making a lawful stop," said Senator Larry Martin out of Pickens County. "Federal immigration agencies can not have boots on the ground. Immigration enforcement officers in every community and we know this is a pervasive problem."

June 28, 2011

A three-decade South Carolina police veteran has been confirmed as chief of the State Law Enforcement Division. The Senate confirmed 53-year-old Mark Keel for the state's top law enforcement job with a 33-0 vote Tuesday. Keel had been director of the state Department of Public Safety since 2008. He replaces Reggie Lloyd who in 2008 became the state's first black SLED director and just the third chief to lead the agency founded in 1947. Keel joined SLED in 1979 and earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1995. He rose to chief of staff before being appointed to lead Public Safety. During his

confirmation hearing, Keel told senators he'd held just about every job there was at SLED. The chief's pay currently is \$145,000 a year.

June 28, 2011

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is expected to issue vetoes of elements of the state's \$6 billion spending plan. Haley plans a briefing on vetoes Tuesday afternoon ahead of a midnight deadline. The vetoes would be the Republican governor's first since she took office in January. Haley is expected to veto the GOP-majority Legislature's proposal to use state money for the 2012 Republican presidential primary. She also has raised questions about \$56 million added to [school](#) budgets. Legislators need to muster two-thirds votes in the [House](#) and Senate to override a governor's vetoes

June 29, 2011

President Barack Obama called for cutting taxes on the middle class while raising taxes on the wealthy - whom he referred to as "jet owners" - as a means of raising revenue and paying down debt. In his televised address to the nation, Obama said revenue is an essential ingredient in balancing the budget and addressing the crisis imposed by the nation reaching the \$14 trillion debt ceiling. Unless Congress raises the debt ceiling, the U.S. will essentially run out of tools to pay its debts and operate the government, Obama said. "You can't reduce the deficit without having some revenue in the mix," he said. Obama's speech comes one week after budget negotiations between Vice President Joe Biden and key Republican leaders over the debt ceiling fell apart. The deadline to raise the debt ceiling is Aug. 2. After that point, the U.S. will default on loans. "If the United States - for the first time - cannot pay its bills, it defaults," he said. "Then the consequences for the U.S. economy will be significant and unpredictable. And that is not a good thing." Obama has challenged the federal government to cut \$4 trillion from its budgets over 10 years, while at the same time protecting funding for healthcare over the longterm. A bi-partisan commission has identified \$1 trillion in cuts, he said, and now, it's time for "the rich" to do their part. Otherwise, deeper cuts might compromise critical services, such as educational scholarships, national weather services, critical medical research and [food](#) safety inspections. "I spent the last two years cutting taxes for ordinary Americans, and I want to continue expanding those tax cuts," he said, noting that the struggles of middle-class families were a big problem before the recession hit in 2007. However, Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-OH, told Fox News on Tuesday that tax increases on the wealthy are not on the bargaining table. "There are no votes in the Congress ... to raise taxes on anyone," Boehner said. Obama responded Wednesday by painting the Republican Party as being more interested in rich CEOs and oil companies than in the average, struggling American. "I don't think that's real radical," the president said of his proposed changes in tax laws. "You'll still be able to ride on your corporate jet, you're just going to have to pay a little more." He urged Congress to pass other budget-related bills, including extending middle class tax cuts, sending Americans to work on improving the nation's transportation infrastructure and advancing trade agreements with countries like South Korea. In relaying a sense of urgency, Obama called on members of Congress to skip their vacations and stay in Washington to hammer out a [solution](#) to the crisis. He held his two daughters out as an example of a work ethic that doesn't allow them to wait until the last minute to finish difficult assignments. "They don't pull all-nighters," he said.

June 29, 2011

South Carolina state representatives want tax money to keep going to public television. By wide margins, the Republican-ruled [House](#) on Wednesday overrode three measures vetoed by GOP Gov. Nikki Haley that dented South Carolina Education Television budgets. The vetoes now head to the Senate. House Majority Leader Kenny Bingham drew cheers as he told colleagues the governor sat in budget talks and still vetoed the money despite agreements she made. Those deals allowed SCETV to bill state agencies for programs state's taxpayers have covered for years. That included nearly \$5 million for teacher training the state's public schools. Haley said the agency should raise private money instead of using taxpayer [cash](#).

Attachments



Jobs, Economy, Growth

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

DATE

TIME

PROGRAM

April 7, 2011

Wells Fargo & Co. says it's slashing several hundred jobs in the Carolinas because of a decrease in home mortgage applications. Bank spokesman Josh Dunn says most of the 310 positions will be eliminated at the bank's mortgage application center in Wilmington, N.C. The other cuts will come in offices in Raleigh and Fort Mill, S.C. Dunn told The Charlotte Observer on Thursday that it was a hard decision to make. He said the bank would try to find other positions in the company for those who are losing their jobs. Nationwide, Wells Fargo, which bought Charlotte-based Wachovia in 2008, has announced that it is cutting 1,900 positions. San Francisco-based Wells Fargo has 281,000 employees in the United States. That includes 5,500 in South Carolina and 27,000 in North Carolina.

April 7, 2011

It takes thousands of parts to produce a zero-emission transit bus, and last February, when electric-bus-maker Proterra announced it was building a plant in Greenville, a local vendor started reaching out to the Colorado-based company. "We were looking at a way to get in," said Greg Hendricks, vice president of Piedmont-based Hendricks Fabrication. "I even emailed their purchasing agent out of Colorado before they ever announced they were coming here to see if we could get on board." Hendricks' persistence paid off when his company landed the job of building the buses' front-end frame structure, which holds the front-end cage, battery boxes and cooling plates for the batteries. Hendricks said that about four months into the arrangement, Proterra started becoming late on payments. "Going from \$5,000 to \$6,000 invoices to \$50,000 to \$60,000 invoices," Hendricks said. "Once it got to that, they just quit paying. They were promising a date and then wouldn't meet it up until just a few weeks ago and we finally just said, 'No more work.'" Hendricks Fabrication released documents to FOX Carolina's Cody Alcorn, showing unpaid invoices belonging to Proterra as of April 4. The documents showed 10 invoices, dating back to Oct. 19, 2010, up until March 7, 2011 -- a total of \$90,967.60. Hendricks said when he tried to ask Proterra about the open invoices he was told he had to talk to the company CFO Jack McFarland. "He basically told me to get in line," Hendricks said. He said he responded to McFarland by saying, "You're wanting your vendors to be your finance arm?" Hendricks said McFarland told him yes. Hendricks said he responded to McFarland by saying his company was not going to do that. Hendricks Fabrication also turned over several emails to FOX Carolina between Hendricks' brother and business partner, Shawn Hendricks, and one of Proterra's accountants. The emails showed Shawn Hendricks sent an email to Proterra that said, "We have several invoices that are past due. Can you give me any idea when these will be paid?" On March 23, Proterra's accountant sent an email back that said, in part, "We have not received the expected funds as of yet from our investors. At this time the situation is out of our control." Greg Hendricks said not only do they have \$90,000 in open invoices, but several more thousands of dollars in purchase orders and materials to cover future work. "We feel like we're probably into it at a tune of about \$140,000," Greg Hendricks said. The Hendricks brothers said they came forward to make sure another vendor is not put in the same position. As for the future of Hendricks Fabrication, Greg Hendricks said, "It's not going to shut us down or anything. We're just basically out of \$140,000 right now." Alcorn sent Proterra CEO Jeffery Granato an email requesting an interview in response to the story, but that opportunity was declined. "Sorry Cody," Granato said in an email to Alcorn. "I wish I could help you, but I won't likely be in a position to talk to you about the topics you are interested in hearing about until the end of the week. Please check back in with me then. If something changes, I will contact you sooner." So far, Granato has not contacted Alcorn with a response to Hendricks' accusations. Alcorn also put in several phone calls to McFarland and the company's attorney, but those calls were not returned.

April 19, 2011

Unemployment rates in both Carolinas and Georgia were lower in March. South Carolina's unemployment rate dropped below 10 percent for the first time in more than two years. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said Tuesday that South Carolina's jobless rate was 9.9 in March, compared with 10.2 in February. The last time South Carolina's rate was less than 10 percent was in December 2008, at 8.8 percent. Overall, there were 24,300 more jobs in South Carolina in March compared with the year before. State officials planned to release details about the unemployment rate at an afternoon news conference. Economists have said South Carolina's economy is improving, but at a much slower pace than during previous recoveries. North Carolina's unemployment rate dropped slightly in March, marking the fifth straight month that the rate has remained below double digits. The Employment Security Commission said Tuesday the rate was 9.7 percent, compared with 9.8 percent

in February and 11.3 percent in March of last year. The rate first dropped below 10 percent in November. Commission Chairman Lynn R. Holmes said the state gained almost 14,000 nonfarm jobs in March, the third straight month that the number of those jobs increased. The largest increase occurred in professional and business services, where 6,000 jobs were added. Since January, the number of nonfarm industry jobs has increased by 36,500. The number of people employed increased by 13,000 while the number of unemployed decreased by almost 2,000. In Georgia, state Labor Commissioner Mark Butler said the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 10 percent in March, down two-tenths of a percentage point from a revised 10.2 percent in February. The state's jobless rate was also 10.2 percent in March 2010. Butler said Monday he's especially pleased with the fact that Georgia's employment rolls have shown growth for two consecutive months. He said employers appear to be growing more confident that the economy is improving. There were 3,812,700 payroll jobs in March, up 15,600, or four-tenths of a percentage point, from 3,797,100 in February. Sixty percent of the jobs were added in leisure and hospitality, including 7,000 at eating and drinking establishments. The number of long-term unemployed fell slightly from February, the first such decline since last August. All three state's numbers are still higher than the national unemployment rate of 8.8 percent in March

April 20, 2011

As gas prices continue to rise, some drivers are trading in their cars and trucks for more fuel-efficient vehicle like scooters and motorcycles. Premier Scooters owner Pete Tamayo said the recent spike in gas prices has people bombarding his business. He said scooters and motorcycles are zooming to the top of the list when it comes to cheaper transportation. Tamayo said prices range from \$700 to nearly \$3000 and his business is up 40 percent over last year. "We have had some instances where people have prepaid for the scooters before they were shipped out of China," said Tamayo. Safety experts said people who are considering purchasing a scooter or motorcycle should remember these tips: Always ride with a helmet, wear protective gear, avoid riding at night and only ride on smooth and hard surfaces.

April 28, 2011

A company that produces napkins, table cloths and aprons is opening a new operation in Jonesville and bringing 100 jobs to Union County. South Carolina Commerce Department officials said Thursday that the start-up firm Textile Trends is making a \$440,000 investment in a cut-and-sew operation. The firm will produce linens for the hospitality industry. Company officials plan to lease a building once used as a packaging site by the Miliken company in Jonesville, located southeast of Spartanburg. Company officials say they will begin hiring in early May and anyone interested should contact the Union County Workforce Center at 864-427-5672 or 864-427-4119 for information.

April 28, 2011

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's plan to refinance the state's jobless benefit debt in order to help pay back massive federal loans would also cut the number of weeks people can draw checks. The state's chronically high unemployment has led to loans approaching \$1 billion. Employers have complained about higher unemployment taxes as the state repays Washington. Haley Chief of Staff Tim Pearson said Thursday the governor wants to sell \$180 million in revenue bonds. He likened the proposal to sell revenue bonds to refinancing a home loan. The proposal Haley backs also limits jobless benefits to 20 weeks instead of the current 26. It also calls for reducing jobless payments if employers give workers severance pay. The proposals need legislative approval.

May 20, 2011

South Carolina's unemployment rate has improved for the fourth straight month, dropping to 9.8 percent in April. The state Department of Employment and Workforce reported Friday the state has added 11,700 jobs from March, when the unemployment rate was 9.9 percent. The state has added more than 16,000 in the past year. All sectors showed job increases for the month except education and government. The national jobless rate for April was 9 percent. South Carolina's unemployment rate has decreased steadily from a peak of 12.5 percent in January 2010. Marion County continued to have the highest jobless rate at 18.7 percent. Lexington County continued to have the lowest rate at 7.3 percent.

June 1, 2011

Growth in the job market weakened in May, surprising economists and spurring them to call a report on private payrolls "shockingly weak," "grim," and even a "hairball." "The ADP Employment report coughed up a hairball in May," Robert Dye, senior economist with the PNC Financial Services Group, said in a research note, referring to a report by payroll processing company ADP released Wednesday. That report showed private sector employers added only 38,000 workers in May, far lower than the revised 177,000 jobs added in April and much weaker than economists had expected. That level of job growth is the weakest number since September. According to ADP, the private sector had added 100,000 jobs in each of the prior six months leading to May. "No matter what, this is obviously a very, very weak result," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist with BMO

Capital Markets. "Employers are still hiring but they're reluctant to pick up the pace until they're convinced the recovery is self-sustaining." The broader services sector added 48,000 jobs overall, its slowest growth since last July. The manufacturing sector cut 9,000 jobs, the financial services sector lost 6,000 jobs and the construction sector pared 8,000 workers. The ADP report followed on the heels of an already disappointing jobs number released by outplacement consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas on Wednesday morning. According to that report, the pace of planned job cuts edged higher in May, as 37,135 jobs went on the chopping block -- a 1.8% increase from April's planned job cuts. But government sector layoff announcements dominating those numbers. "Despite several signs of weakness in the recovery, the continued slow pace of downsizing outside of the government sector suggests that employers do not see these as long-term problems," John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas said in a statement. The ADP and Challenger reports typically set the tone for the government's highly anticipated monthly jobs report due Friday. Prior to seeing those reports Wednesday, economists surveyed by CNNMoney had predicted that the economy added 176,000 new jobs in May, including a private sector payrolls gain of 193,000. Now they say there's a much higher risk the government's tally could come in much lower. Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist with High Frequency Economics, cut his forecast for Friday's private-payroll government number to 75,000 from his previous estimate of 175,000. Diane Swonk, chief economist of Mesirow Financial -- who had previously predicted a gain of 190,000 private sector jobs -- said she wouldn't be surprised to see that number now fall below 100,000 in May

June 1, 2011

A compromise meant to bring Amazon and 2,000 promised jobs to South Carolina could receive final legislative approval. The South Carolina House could vote Wednesday to send the deal to Gov. Nikki Haley. The Republican governor opposes the measure but has repeatedly said she won't veto it. The bill could become law after sitting on her desk for five days. The deal would give Amazon the five-year exemption it sought from collecting sales taxes from South Carolina's online shoppers. In return, the online retailer must create the full-time jobs with health benefits and invest at least \$125 million. The Senate compromise approved last week also requires Amazon to notify customers on each confirmation e-mail and in yearly purchase tallies that they're responsible for paying sales tax to the state.

June 7, 2011

VCI-SC, Inc. announced on Tuesday it will establish its new facility in Pickens County. Company representatives said VCI-SC will invest \$2 million and create 50 new jobs. VCI-SC will move in to an existing building at 2632 Farris Bridge Road. The company describes the new operation as a metal parts manufacturing and design facility. Gov. Nikki Haley applauds the addition of the facility. "We welcome VCI-SC Inc. to our state's business community and appreciate the company's decision to start new operations and create good, new manufacturing jobs here. South Carolina is a competitive place to do business as announcements like this one show. This administration is committed to continuing efforts to improve our state's business climate and attract investment that creates jobs for South Carolinians," said Gov. Haley in a statement. Company President Gene Harrison said the new location will allow VCI to make its products in closer proximity to its customers and will allow the company to expand its Southeast market share. VCI is based in Sturgis, MI. The company is a supplier for BMW and other automotive manufacturers, as well as for the aerospace, energy, industrial and military sectors. "VCI-SC is just the sort of company that we like to see locate here," said Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, chairman of Alliance Pickens in a statement. "Gene and his team are on top of their game and committed to excellence in manufacturing and also in the way they do business. We look forward to a long-term relationship that will result in a secure future for highly skilled employees, superb products for VCI-SC customers, and community involvement by Gene and his entire employee base." The company plans to begin hiring in June. The open positions will include design, welding, machine set-up, machine programming, fixture building and general labor. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Liberty Workforce Center once hiring begins.

June 8, 2011

Amazon wasted no time in posting job openings for a South Carolina operation as a tax break for the company became law without Gov. Nikki Haley's signature. The company issued a statement early Wednesday that it has posted hundreds of job openings for a plant in Lexington County. Haley had opposed the plan to make the company exempt from collecting South Carolina's sales tax in exchange for a promise of 2,000 jobs. But she had said she would let the measure become law without her signature. The deadline was midnight Tuesday. The company said Wednesday the jobs will include medical and dental coverage for workers and a number of other employee benefits. The new law says Amazon doesn't have to collect sales tax from South Carolina online shoppers until 2016.

June 8, 2011

A U.S. House committee plans a hearing in South Carolina this month over a federal labor lawsuit against Boeing Co. that claims the company moved manufacturing facilities from Washington state to North Charleston avoid unionized workers. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government planned to announce Wednesday that its members will travel to North Charleston on June 17 for the hearing. The National Labor Relations Board in April sued Boeing, claiming the manufacturer located a new 787 passenger aircraft assembly line in South Carolina -- a right-to-work state -- to retaliate against Washington state union workers who went on strike in 2008. The NLRB wants that work returned to Washington, even though the company has already built a new South Carolina plant and hired 1,000 workers.

June 8, 2011

The Greenville County School District will hold two job fairs in June to recruit employees. The district is looking for bus drivers, bus aides, food service operators and custodians for the 2011-2012 school year. The district told FOX Carolina that 100 - 120 jobs are available. The first job fair will be held on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon at Wade Hampton High School at 100 Pine Knoll Drive in Greenville. The second job fair will be held on June 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at Mauldin High School at 701 E. Butler Road in Mauldin

June 14, 2011

Two employers in the Upstate are holding jobs fairs in the Upstate on Tuesday. Bosch has two career fairs at its manufacturing plant in Anderson County. The career fair times are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Bosch is located at 4421 Highway 81 North. The job positions open include electro-mechanical technicians, supplier quality engineers, manufacturing engineers and buying and purchasing managers. Company officials told FOX Carolina that Bosch has more than 25 positrons available. Bosch makes gasoline system and automotive electronic products at its Anderson County plant. The Greenville County School District is also holding a job fair. The district is looking for bus drivers, bus aides, food service operators and custodians for the 2011-2012 school year. The district told FOX Carolina that 100 - 120 jobs are available. The job fair will be held on from 8 a.m. to noon at Mauldin High School at 701 E. Butler Road in Mauldin

June 14, 2011

There are certainly signs of development in our area, from bulldozers to the construction of new buildings along Woodruff Road. But while some developments like Magnolia Park in Greenville are still on the back burner, others are ready to open their doors soon. Funnelicious is a new downtown [business](#), specializing in tantalizing dessert food. And if the funky, colorful outside doesn't catch your attention, we promise what's inside, will. Funnelicious operations manager Mike Pennington said "we have the best funnel cake mix by far in the whole area." Mike Pennington and his family are opening Funnelicious on Main Street in the West End of downtown Greenville. It's a fried dessert lovers dream, with funnel cake as the main attraction. "You name it, we can fry it, and top it," said Pennington. The dessert cafe started years ago, when the Penningtons had a funnel cake stand at Greenville's Artisphere festival. They said their cakes were so popular, they wanted to make them a staple in the Upstate. Pennington said "we wanted to make an interactive dessert, fun food shop downtown that people can enjoy every day." The shop is diagonal from Flour Field, and less than a mile away from Augusta Road. They think their location is prime. "We hope to help extend Main street, and help revitalize this area," said Pennington. The shop is sizzling, and ready to open its doors next week. Meanwhile, across town, construction drags on at Magnolia Park on Woodruff Road. Progress is being made in one building, closest to the road. There soon will be a Cheddars Restaurant chain in Magnolia Park by the end of the summer. Another addition Upstate resident Shaunetta Murray says may add to the traffic on Woodruff Road. Murray said, "Woodruff Road is so busy, we've been shopping all day, and it hard to get in and out of the [highway](#). I don't think we need another restaurant." And while we first reported a bowling alley would be built right next door, the city of Greenville said that didn't pan out, and now they're hoping to bring in another retail space, and yet another restaurant.

June 15, 2011

BMW Manufacturing will add a new shift model later this year, but company officials said it may not bring new jobs. According to a spokesperson for the company, BMW plans to roll out the new shift in October. The exact details about how the shift would operate or if additional jobs would be created could not be released at this time. Officials did tell us the shift addition is good news for the Greer-based manufacturer, as it means that [cars](#) produced at the plant are in higher demand worldwide.

June 23, 2011

The number of people who applied for unemployment benefits last week rose by the most in a month, signaling growing weakness in the job market. Applications rose by 9,000 to a seasonally adjusted 429,000 last week, the Labor Department said Thursday. It was the second increase in three weeks and the 11th straight week that applications have been above 400,000. The four-week average for unemployment benefit applications, a less volatile measure, was unchanged at 426,250 last week. Applications dipped below 400,000 in February and stayed under that threshold for seven of the following nine weeks. Applications fell as low as 375,000, a level that signals sustainable job growth. But applications surged in April to an eight-month high of 478,000 and have shown only modest improvement since that time. Stocks appeared to be headed for another losing day. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 175 points in early-morning trading. Analysts said the June trend in unemployment applications was consistent with modest payroll growth of around 130,000 per month. The economy needs to generate at least 125,000 jobs per month just to keep up with population growth. And at least twice that many jobs are needed to bring down the unemployment rate, which rose to 9.1 percent in May. "We need initial claims to fall back below 400,000 to signal stronger economic growth than the area we seem to be mired in," said analysts John Ryding and Conrad DeQuadros at RDQ. Companies pulled back on hiring in the spring in the face of higher gas and food prices. That has cut into consumer spending on other discretionary items, such as furniture and appliances, which help boost economic growth. Employers added only 54,000 net [new](#) jobs in May, much slower than the average gain of 220,000 per month in the previous three months. The Federal Reserve acknowledged on Wednesday that the economy has slowed in recent months. Fed officials also said in a statement summing up their two-day meeting that "recent labor market indicators have been weaker than anticipated." As a result, the Fed reduced its forecast for employment and growth this year. It projects that unemployment at the end of 2011 will be around 8.6 percent to 8.9 percent. That's more pessimistic than its forecast from two months ago, which had put the unemployment rate at 8.4 percent to 8.7 percent by year's end. That pessimism is also seen in projections by private economists. According to an Associated Press Economy survey last week, the nation will add only about 1.9 million jobs this year and the unemployment rate

will fall to only 8.7 percent at the end of the year. The Labor Department reported that computer processing problems forced the agency to make estimates for five states and one territory last week. The states affected were Ohio, Mississippi, Oregon, New Hampshire, Washington state and the Virgin Islands. That means the national figure could be revised slightly when the actual data from those states is processed. The number of people receiving unemployment benefits dropped by 1,000 to 3.7 million. But that doesn't include the millions of additional unemployed Americans receiving benefits under emergency benefit programs put in place during the recession. All told, 7.5 million received benefits during the week ending June 4, that's up by 137,000 from the previous week. More hiring is critical to boosting the economic growth. It leads to greater consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of total economic activity. Consumer spending slowed to a 2.2 percent growth rate in the first three months of this year. The weakness reflected the rise in [gas prices](#). The Fed on Wednesday left a key interest rate unchanged at near zero percent and repeated a pledge to keep rates exceptionally low for "an extended period." Fed officials said in a statement that they think the main causes of the economy's slowdown, such as high gas prices and supply disruptions from Japan's disasters, are temporary. Once those problems subside, Fed officials said the economy should rebound. But at a news conference after the statement was released, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke acknowledged that some of the problems slowing the economy could persist into next year. He cited continued weakness in the financial sector and persistent problems in the housing market.

June 24, 2011

Passenger traffic at Greenville-Spartanburg International [Airport](#) increased for the third straight month in May, according to airport officials. Officials said 163,000 passengers traveled through GSP in May. That number is up from 155,000 travelers in April and 140,000 travelers in March. May's number is up more than 48 percent over last year, officials said. Airport officials cited lower fares, more destinations and the start of [summer](#) for the increase of passenger traffic. Southwest Airlines and Vision Airlines both started operating out of GSP in March.

June 27, 2011

An Upstate staffing company will fill 100 jobs during a job fair set for Tuesday. [Marketplace](#) Staffing said the recruiting event will be held at McAlister Square in Greenville from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The agency said the entry-level positions include warehouse support, CNC machinists, forklift operators, machine operator, assembler and electromechanical technicians. "These are quality positions with quality organizations, pay very competitive wages and typically include benefit packages," said Jason Mitchell, director of [business](#) development for Marketplace Staffing. Applicants should bring a resume, the agency said.

June 28, 2011

A [call center](#) opening in Greenville on July 5 will create more than 120 jobs, DialAmerica said Tuesday. The new facility will be located at 440 Roper Mountain Road. The company said that over the next several months it will hire call center agents at varying experience levels, as well as experienced professionals. Benefits include flexible work hours, a comprehensive paid [training program](#) and competitive salaries. Interested applicants should go to dialamerica.com/careers.

June 29, 2011

President Barack Obama says it would defy common sense for [Boeing Co.](#) to have to shut down a new aircraft plant or lay off workers as a result of a labor dispute with the government. Obama says companies need to have the freedom to relocate work, though they must follow the law when doing so. The president was responding to a question about a lawsuit filed by the National Labor Relations Board against [Boeing](#), accusing the aerospace company of illegally retaliating against its unionized work force in Washington state by opening a new production line for its 787 airplane in South Carolina, a right-to-work state. Obama says the case was brought by an independent agency and a judge would decide the facts.

June 29, 2011

The Miss South Carolina Pageant started in Columbia this week, for the first time in history. That means a big economic loss for Spartanburg, which had hosted the event for the past 15 years. The Spartanburg Auditorium used to be the venue that hosted the event, but last year the board voted to move the pageant to Township Auditorium. The Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau said it is expecting an economic impact of more than \$630,000 from the pageant -- money that used to be poured into the Spartanburg economy. Some restaurants and hotels in Spartanburg said they have seen a drop in [business](#) without the event. "We'd fix them up in Beacon T-shirts and feed them a lunch and they all had a good time," said Beacon Drive-In Co-owner Sam Maw. One hotel said it has seen a 50 percent drop in its business compared to last year

June 30, 2011

A judge has denied [Boeing Co.](#)'s request to dismiss a federal lawsuit that claims the company illegally retaliated against unionized workers by moving some work from Washington state to South Carolina. The ruling by Administrative Law Judge Clifford Anderson allows the National Labor Relations Board to move ahead in presenting its case against [Boeing](#) in a Seattle hearing room. The NLRB alleges that Boeing violated labor laws by opening a new production line for its 787 airplane in South Carolina. The agency claims Boeing opened the

new plant to punish Washington state workers for past strikes and wants the company to return the work to Washington. Boeing denies the charges, saying it opened the South Carolina plant for valid economic reasons. A Boeing spokeswoman had no immediate comment

Attachments



Quality of Life

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED
SECOND QUARTER 2011**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	12:30am	WESTGATE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Description:	A church service that airs Saturdays at 12:30am. (30:00)	
Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
Description:	A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)	
Sundays,	7:30am	GREG LENTZ MINISTRIES
Description:	A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)	
Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
Description:	A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)	
Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Description:	A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)	
Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Description:	A church service that airs every Sunday morning and Saturday night. (30:00)	

April 7, 2011

A Byrnes High School student was killed in a crash near Wellford on Wednesday, three years after his father died in Afghanistan. The three-car crash happened at the intersection of Fairhill Road and Fort Prince Boulevard at 8 a.m. The coroner's office said 18-year-old Aaron Hill, a driver of one of the vehicles, was pronounced dead at the scene. The condition of the two other drivers and their passengers were not immediately available, the coroner's office said. Hill was wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash, the coroner's office said. Troopers blocked off the area while they investigated the crash. Spartanburg County School District 5 called the crash a tragedy for the high school and the community. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Aaron's family," the school district said in a statement to the media. "We are committed to doing everything we can to assist the family during this time of tragedy." According to the district, Hill's father, Sgt. Shawn Hill, a 1989 Byrnes graduate, died while serving in Afghanistan in January 2008. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

April 12, 2011

Organizers of Freedom Weekend Aloft announced Tuesday which bands will perform during the 30th annual balloon festival. The festival, which features music, hot-air balloons, food and carnival rides, runs over Memorial Day weekend at Simpsonville's Heritage Park. On May 27, 1990s rock bands Tonic and Gin Blossoms will perform on the amphitheater stage. Country music bands hit the stage on May 28 with Walker Hayes, Steel Magnolia and Joe Nichols as part of the lineup. On May 29, the stage will feature rock band The Wailers and guitarist and singer Corey Smith. Organizers said the list released Tuesday only represents part of the concerts that will be part of this year's festival. "This year's list of artists is exciting and ranges from country, to '90s, to reggae, to performs back by popular demand," said Simpsonville Mayor Dennis Waldrop. "We feel confident that we have something for everyone and the 2011 concert series will not disappoint." The Purple People Eater hot-air balloon, piloted by an 83-year-old Kentucky man, will make a return to the festival this year. Freedom Weekend Aloft also showcased a new application that can be downloaded to your mobile device. It features event news, schedules, instant weather and turn-by-turn directions.

April 20, 2011

Relatives flew over Gulf of Mexico waters on Wednesday where 11 oil rig workers died a year ago, residents gathered in quiet prayer vigils onshore and President Barack Obama vowed to hold BP and others accountable for "the painful losses that they've caused." Somber remembrances marked the one-year anniversary of the rig explosion that caused the worst offshore oil spill in American history. But all is not bleak. Beaches, restaurants and hotels are filling up again, and experts say the resilient Gulf is on the mend. The disaster began on the night of April 20, 2010, when the Deepwater Horizon rig burst into flames and killed the 11 men. The rest of the crew evacuated, but two days later the rig toppled into the Gulf and sank to the sea floor. The bodies were never recovered. Over the next 85 days, 206 million gallons of oil - 19 times more than the Exxon Valdez spilled - spewed from the well. In response, the nation commandeered the largest offshore fleet of vessels since D-Day, and BP spent billions of dollars to clean up the mess, saving itself from collapse. "I can't believe tomorrow has been one year because it seems like everything just happened," Courtney Kemp, whose husband Roy Wyatt Kemp was killed on the rig, wrote on her Facebook page Tuesday. "I have learned a lot of things through all of this but the most important is to live each day as if it were your last ... what matters is if you truly live." Natalie Roshto, whose husband Shane Roshto also died on the rig, posted a message on Courtney Kemp's Facebook page on Tuesday evening: "Can't believe it's been a year.. It has brought a lot of tears and a great friendship I'm Soooo thankful for.. We are a strong force together!! Love u sista." In a statement, President Barack Obama paid tribute to those killed in the blast and thanked the thousands of responders who "worked tirelessly to mitigate the worst impacts" of the oil spill. "We continue to hold BP and other responsible parties fully accountable for the damage they've done and the painful losses that they've caused," he said. Transocean, the ill-fated rig's owner, invited up to three members of each family to attend the flyover. They were expected to circle the site a few times in a helicopter, though there is no visible marker identifying where their loved ones perished. At the bottom of the sea, 11 stars were imprinted on the well's final cap. Several families said they didn't want to go on the flyover, and Transocean didn't allow media. At a solemn candle-lit ceremony facing New Orleans' cathedral in Jackson Square shortly after sunrise, environmentalists and religious leaders joined to remember the perished rig workers and call on the nation to take the steps to prevent another environmental catastrophe. The ceremony organized by the Sierra Club attracted only a handful of attendees, underscoring the point of a rabbi who addressed the group. "Our souls are slumbering in moral indifference," said Rabbi Edward Cohn of the Temple Sinai in New Orleans. "People quite rightly are asking: How and when, and by whose insistence and stubborn support, will the public's mind be refocused upon what happened in the Gulf?" Elsewhere around the world, BP employees were observing a minute of silence. "We are committed to meet our obligations to those affected by this tragedy and we will continue our work to strengthen safety and risk management across BP," BP chief executive Bob Dudley said in a message on the company's website. "But most of all today, we remember 11 fellow workers and we deeply regret the loss of their lives." The solemn ceremonies underscore the delicate healing that is only now taking shape. Oil still occasionally rolls up on beaches in the form of tar balls, and fishermen face an uncertain future. Louis and Audrey Neal of Pass Christian, Miss., who make their living from crabbing, said it's gotten so bad since the spill that they're contemplating divorce and facing foreclosure. "I don't see any daylight at the end of this tunnel. I don't see any hope at all. We thought we'd see hope after a year, but there's nothing," Audrey Neal said. "We ain't making no money. There's no crabs," said Louis Neal, a lifelong crabber. His wife said the couple received about \$53,000 from BP early on, but that was just enough money to cover three months of debt. They haven't received any funds from an administrator handing out compensation from a \$20 billion fund set up by BP, they said. Still, there are some positive signs of recovery. Traffic jams on the narrow coastal roads of Alabama, crowded seafood restaurants in Florida and families vacationing along the Louisiana coast attest to the fact that familiar routines are returning, albeit slowly. Most scientists agree the effects "were not as severe as many had predicted," said Christopher D'Elia, dean at the School of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University. "People had said this was an ecological Armageddon, and that did not come to pass." But biologists are still concerned about the spill's long-term effect on marine life. Accumulated oil is believed to lie on the bottom of the Gulf, and it still shows up as a thick, gooey black crust along miles of Louisiana's marshy shoreline. Scientists have begun to notice that the land in many places is eroding. On a tour of the wetlands Tuesday, Robert Barham, Louisiana's wildlife secretary, showed reporters the lingering damage. Roseau cane is growing again where it was cut away during early cleanup efforts, but Barham said the 3- to 4-foot-high stalks should be a lush green. Instead, they were pale green and brown. "It's because of oil in the root system," Barham said. He put his hand into the dirt and pulled up mud saturated with oil. Tossing the sludge into nearby water, it released a rainbow-colored sheen. Barham complained that BP had not done enough to clean the area. "What they've done thus far is not working." Back from his first shrimping run since the spill, Ted Petrie docked his boat Wednesday at the Grand Isle marina where Gov. Bobby Jindal planned to hold a press briefing to mark the anniversary. He said he worries about the Gulf fishing industry's long-term prospects in the aftermath of the spill. That's why he is opting to pursue his claim against BP in court rather than settle for a quick payout from the company's \$20 billion claims fund, as many of his fellow fishermen have done. "I got tired of messing with it," Petrie said of the claims process. "They gave everybody the runaround." Still, he said he's grateful to be back on the water doing the job he has done for 40

years. He hauled in about 2,000 pounds of shrimp in three days, enough for a modest profit. "It feels good," said Petrie, 50. "A fisherman has it in their blood. They just like to do it."

April 25, 2011

Thieves swiped a church's Easter offering early Monday morning, Asheville police said. The theft happened at the Lutheran Church of the Nativity at 2425 Hendersonville Road. Police said someone broke into the church, pried open a safe and stole the money. They said about \$15,000 in checks and \$610 in cash were inside the safe. The thieves caused about \$450 in damage when they broke into the church, police said. Anyone with information about the theft was asked to call Crime Stoppers at 828-255-5050.

April 25, 2011

A soldier from Hendersonville was killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on Saturday, the Department of Defense said. Chief Warrant Officer Terry Varnadore, 29, was assigned to the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, of Fort Drum, N.Y., the DOD said. Varnadore was deployed to Afghanistan last year, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times. The newspaper said Varnadore is survived by his expectant wife and 4-year-old daughter. Funeral arrangements were not immediately announced, the newspaper reported. The cause of the helicopter crash is under investigation, the DOD said.

April 25, 2011

Sunday Mass to find that a statue of Jesus there had been vandalized with spray paint, according to FOX Carolina's sister station in Atlanta. Police told CBS Atlanta that no suspects have been named. Paint was used to cover the face and hands of the statue, the television station reported. They said offensive symbols were also painted on the statue. Church deacon Dave Thomasberger told CBS Atlanta that the paint has gotten into the statue's marble and will be hard to get out.

April 27, 2011

A museum dedicated to the life of a Greenwood native often referred to as the father of the civil rights movement is opening. Former U.N. ambassador and Atlanta mayor Andrew Young spoke Tuesday at the Benjamin E. Mays Historic Preservation Site at Mays' childhood home in the Epworth community. Young said that without Mays, there would be no Martin Luther King Jr. and no Andrew Young. Born in 1894, Mays left segregated South Carolina to pursue his education. He served 27 years as president of Morehouse College starting in 1940. King graduated from Morehouse in 1948 and called Mays his intellectual father.

May 1, 2011

Some of the Upstate's finest chefs and caterers donated their time and talent for an incredible day of food. Greenville's Taste of the Nation was held May 1 at the embassy suites on Verdae Boulevard. Hundreds of people were on hand to taste foods from restaurants in the upstate and across the country. There was also a silent auction where dozens of upstate businesses donated gift certificates to be auctioned off. Fox Carolina has been associated with Taste of the Nation since it came to Greenville 16 years ago. People have a good time, enjoy great food, and it's a great way to raise money for No Kid Hungry. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from Taste of the Nation went to end childhood hunger. Everyone from the volunteers to the chefs to the participants are committed to the cause and the great time.

May 3, 2011

A state official told the Swain County Department of Social Services on Monday night that he has concerns about poor record keeping and a lack of training at the department. A review of the department comes after the death of 6-month-old Aubrey Littlejohn in January while she was in the care of her great aunt. A State Bureau of Investigation review found that Aubrey was abused and county DSS workers neglected to remove her from the home when they had an opportunity. The board heard from Jeff Olson, of the Department of Health and Human Services on Monday night. He said some of the problems may have stemmed from a lack of supervision. Officials said the department must make major improvements. "Ultimately, I think everybody needs to be judged on how they respond to that," said Jeff Olson, of the Department of Health and Human Services. Officials said that Aubrey's case was not considered during this review, but will be looked at again as part of an intensive child fatality review, which will likely start next year.

May 12, 2011

More than 50,000 people are expected to crowd the West End for Greenville's annual three-day arts festival. Artisphere, which started in March 2003, begins at 4 p.m. Friday and ends at 6 p.m. Sunday. The festival showcases all forms of art, from performance to culinary to live art. Organizers said it showcases what Greenville has to offer both locally and internationally.

"We have so many wonderful arts organizations in Greenville, and this weekend is all about showcasing them," said Artisphere executive director Kerry Murphy. "We also like to provide something maybe Greenville doesn't see all the time." Organizers said outdoor activities and performances are free. Tickets for indoor events are between \$12 and \$40. The festival includes an area for kids called Kidsphere, which will feature activities like paper bag hats, flower sculptures, mixed media macaroni mosaics and woven baskets. The festival also features music, street performances and more than 100 artists. Main Street from River to Broad streets will be closed Friday through Sunday.

May 24, 2011

The tornado that devastated Joplin, Mo., killing at least 117 people, may have caused up to \$3 billion in insured losses, according to an estimate from a catastrophe risk modeling firm released Tuesday. Eqecat Inc. estimated that the tornado that flattened the city of about 50,000 people on Sunday caused from \$1 billion to \$3 billion worth of damage to insured buildings - including homes, businesses and factories - and automobiles, according to Jose Miranda, director of client advocacy. Miranda said the firm based its estimate on reports that up to 2,500 buildings in the city were destroyed and up to 10,000 were damaged, in a city with an estimated 25,000 buildings. He said the true cost of the damage is unclear, since Eqecat does not have data for uninsured losses. The Joplin tornado is the single deadliest tornado in U.S. history, in what has been a particularly catastrophic year. So far this year, tornadoes have killed 482 people in the United States. This year was relatively calm, as far as natural disasters are concerned, until April, when a series of three severe storms ripped through the Southern states, causing up to \$5 billion worth of damage. The most serious storm featured 178 tornadoes and killed at least 300 people, many of them in Alabama. Communities along the Mississippi River are dealing with a disaster of a different nature: severe flooding. This has prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to open spillways along the river, deliberately flooding rural areas in Louisiana in the hopes of sparing Baton Rouge and New Orleans. This deliberate flooding could cost \$2.2 billion in damage to more than 21,000 homes, according to analysis by research firm CoreLogic, which estimates that more than 2,000 homes are uninsured. The flood has also caused further economic hardship by interrupting commerce along the Mississippi River.

May 31, 2011

The founder of two Christian television stations and a local church died Monday at 82. Dr. James Thompson founded WGGSTV in Greenville and WATC-TV in Atlanta. He also founded the Faith Temple Church in Taylors, where he was the pastor for 30 years. Visitation for Thompson will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at WGGSTV. His funeral will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday at Faith Temple Church.

June 8, 2011

The Carolina First Center in Greenville will be renamed the TD Convention Center this summer. In a statement released Tuesday, TD Bank said the name change is part of the conversion of the Carolina First brand to the TD Bank brand throughout the Carolinas. In 2010, TD Bank announced it acquired Carolina First Bank. As part of the acquisition, TD Bank assumed Carolina First's multi-year sponsorship deal for naming rights to the convention center. "We are pleased to have this relationship with TD Bank that has once again shown its commitment to our community," said Greenville City Manager John Castile. "As host to hundreds of events, both consumer and corporate, each year, we feel the TD Convention Center will be a great asset to the bank as they strive to expand their footprint and brand in this region." In Tuesday's statement, TD Bank Regional President Rob Hoak said the company is excited to support the convention center. "TD Bank remains dedicated to making a meaningful and positive contribution to the communities in which we do business, and we feel having our name on this signature facility is a great way to do so while also sharing our brand," Hoak said. The name change happens in mid-July.

June 14, 2011

Two teens were killed and four other people were injured in a crash in Anderson County on Tuesday. The crash happened on Highway 29 near Trotter Road. Anderson County Coroner Greg Shore said a car carrying six people pulled out in front of a truck and was hit. Shore said two people, identified as 14-year-old Peter Kovalishin, of Anderson, and 18-year-old Michael Athens, of Starr, were killed in the crash. He said the other four people in the car were flown to local hospitals. Kovalishin and Athens were passengers in the car, Shore said. He said both died from blunt force trauma and cervical spinal injury. Neither the names nor the conditions of those injured in the crash was immediately released. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

June 14, 2011

Attorneys representing a publication they say is unconstitutionally banned from a [South Carolina](#) jail say officials have changed their policies numerous times to justify keeping the magazine out of inmates' hands. American Civil Liberties Union attorney David Shapiro said at a hearing Tuesday that Berkeley County's policies initially banned all publications that weren't the Bible but now stress prohibitions on any nudity or staples. The ACLU sued in October, saying the jail was violating

constitutional rights of both publishers and inmates by rejecting Prison Legal News. The lawsuit also challenged a policy that said inmates were allowed no books but the Bible, but jail attorneys say all religious texts are allowed as long as they meet other requirements, like the absence of staples, which they say can post [security](#) risks.

June 16, 2011

The American Red Cross is reaching out to [help](#) victims of Wednesday night's storms in three Western North Carolina counties. In a statement released Thursday, the Red Cross said it is assisting in Jackson, Swain and Graham Counties. Two four-person volunteer teams are out assessing the damage and serving [snacks](#) and refreshments. Residents who have storm damage on their property are being offered clean-up supplies, tarps and other assistance as needed. "We are working closely with emergency management officials in all three heavily effected counties to assess damage and what is needed on the ground," said Patrick Fitzsimmons, Red Cross CEO in WNC, in a statement. "Depending on the damage assessment, we will respond with supplies and people as needed." The Red Cross says several houses have roof damage and a large number of people remain without power in those three counties.

June 19, 2011

A 12-year-old from Western North Carolina is making her way into the big time of the music [business](#). Just like Shirley Temple, she's a sweetheart for the Disabled Veterans of America. She's singing songs written by the late Harlan Howard, who wrote for Patsy Cline, and she [shares](#) the voice producer with Justin Bieber and Usher. McKayla Reece began singing at age two, and was performing professionally by eight. The poised pre-teen is a master of classic country music, and puts on a mean Betty Boop impersonation. Now, she's the choir director at her church, and is working with Nashville producers on her way to a record deal. McKayla says she sings 24/7, and is now teaching herself piano. After winning the Colgate Country Showdown in Georgia, the state's Disabled American Veterans chose her to represent them as a sweetheart and ambassador. She was named for her grandfather, a disabled veteran, who died two years before she was born. Her family says she gets her voice from him. "I just feel so happy when I'm singing," said McKayla. "It's like everything gets released off of me, it's just a wonderful thing." The Bethel Middle School student said she hopes for a lifetime career in the business. So far, Mckayla travels, often a couple times a week, to gigs throughout the region. McKayla aims to get to New Orleans by the end of the summer, hoping to represent the national organization of the Disabled American Veterans

June 23, 2011

Three members of the Furman University woman's basketball team and three coaches from the team are heading to Tuscaloosa this weekend to [help](#) in tornado relief. Team members Teshia Griswold, Brigid Morrissey and Martha Robinson, assistant coaches Julia Huddleton and Garry Horton and director of basketball operations Jermaine Brown will be joining members of Clemson's FreeWay Church in traveling to Tuscaloosa to assist the United Way in clean up and restoration tasks. The group will depart June 23 and return to the Upstate on June 26. "I'm very proud of players and coaches for their willingness to assist in the tremendous restoration and rebuilding effort the people of Tuscaloosa continue to face following the disaster," said Furman head coach Jackie Carson on Tuesday.

June 27, 2011

Two winning Palmetto Cash 5 tickets were sold in the Upstate, according to the South Carolina [Education](#) Lottery. State lottery officials said one ticket, sold at the Walhalla Food Store on West Main Street, won \$300,000 in Friday night's drawing. They said the other ticket, sold at Greenwood Petroleum on Highway 225 South Bypass, won \$100,000 in the same drawing. Both tickets matched all five numbers, but the Walhalla ticket holder purchased the [Power](#) Up option, multiplying the winnings. Friday night's numbers were 6, 8, 14, 35 and 36. Winners have 180 days from the date of the drawing to claim their prize.

June 27, 2011

The South Carolina Gamecocks are one win away from snagging back-to-back College World Series titles after beating the Florida Gators 2-1 on Monday night. Christian Walker, cleared to play with a broken wrist a half-hour before the game, scored from first base on two throwing errors in the 11th inning and defending champion South Carolina beat Florida in the best-of-three series. In a finish that looked a lot like their 13-inning win over Virginia on Friday, the Gamecocks (54-14) performed defensive magic late, throwing out two runners at home plate in the bottom of the ninth and another in the 10th. Walker, who fractured his left wrist in the win over Virginia, singled up the middle to start the 11th. Florida catcher Mike Zunino threw into center field as Walker stole second. Walker took off for third and was awarded home after Bryson Smith's throw from the outfield bounced away from Cody Dent and into the stands. FOX Carolina's Dana Wachter will report from Omaha on FOX Carolina News at 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

June 30, 2011

A Southern Baptist Convention leader says the group's policy arm supports a "clean" version of the so-called DREAM Act. The proposed law would allow illegal immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children to earn legal status, either by going to college or serving in the military. Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, made the statement in a Monday letter to U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer of New York and John Cornyn of Texas. Both serve on the senate's subcommittee on immigration. Land wrote that his commission could support the DREAM Act, with conditions. They include a provision that would preclude those young adults granted legal status from using it to help their relatives gain legal status or enter the country

